

#METOORECKONING WORKSHOP
"THE RAPE OF TAMAR"



THE RAPE OF TAMAR — chapter 1, pp. 21-37

2 Samuel 13 — the dynamics of silence and silencing

1. Understand the complicated dynamics of the royal household. Amnon, the predatory brother, is a half-brother to Tamar. Absalom, the one who is outraged, is a full brother. Who is first in line to the throne?
2. Note the role of Jonadab, the conniving cousin. What's his motivation? How do his actions benefit his own quest for power?
3. As Amnon attacks, Tamar is eloquent in her own defense. She foresees the future in a way that the men do not. Why?
4. Tamar expresses her grief by tearing her robe. Note what the robe symbolizes.
5. Tamar cries "Where can I carry my shame?" How is that answered in the text? How might our churches answer it now?
6. This could be a case study about the dynamics of silence/silencing — and how both contribute to shame. Note how Absalom "comforts" Tamar, and why. How does silence/silencing hurt or help her? How does it hurt or help him?
7. If you have studied family systems, apply those learnings to the legacy of King David.
8. When Absalom enacts revenge on Amnon, his power is increased. Is this a trivial or essential detail?
9. When Absalom commands his servant to slay Amnon, he says "Be resolute and act manfully." What does this language tell us about gender roles in the Bible? How could you use this command in preaching?
10. How would it change things if we named this story "Amnon Rapes Tamar" instead of "The Rape of Tamar"?
11. Why do you think the story was recorded in scripture? What does it teach us now? How can we use the story of Tamar in ministry?