

# The Rest of the Story...



# The humanity behind the heroes

# Hebrews 11:32-34

And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and *of* Barak, and *of* Samson, and *of* Jephthae; *of* David also, and Samuel, and *of* the prophets:

Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

# The world needs heroes...



# ...but what happens when heroes lose their humanity?

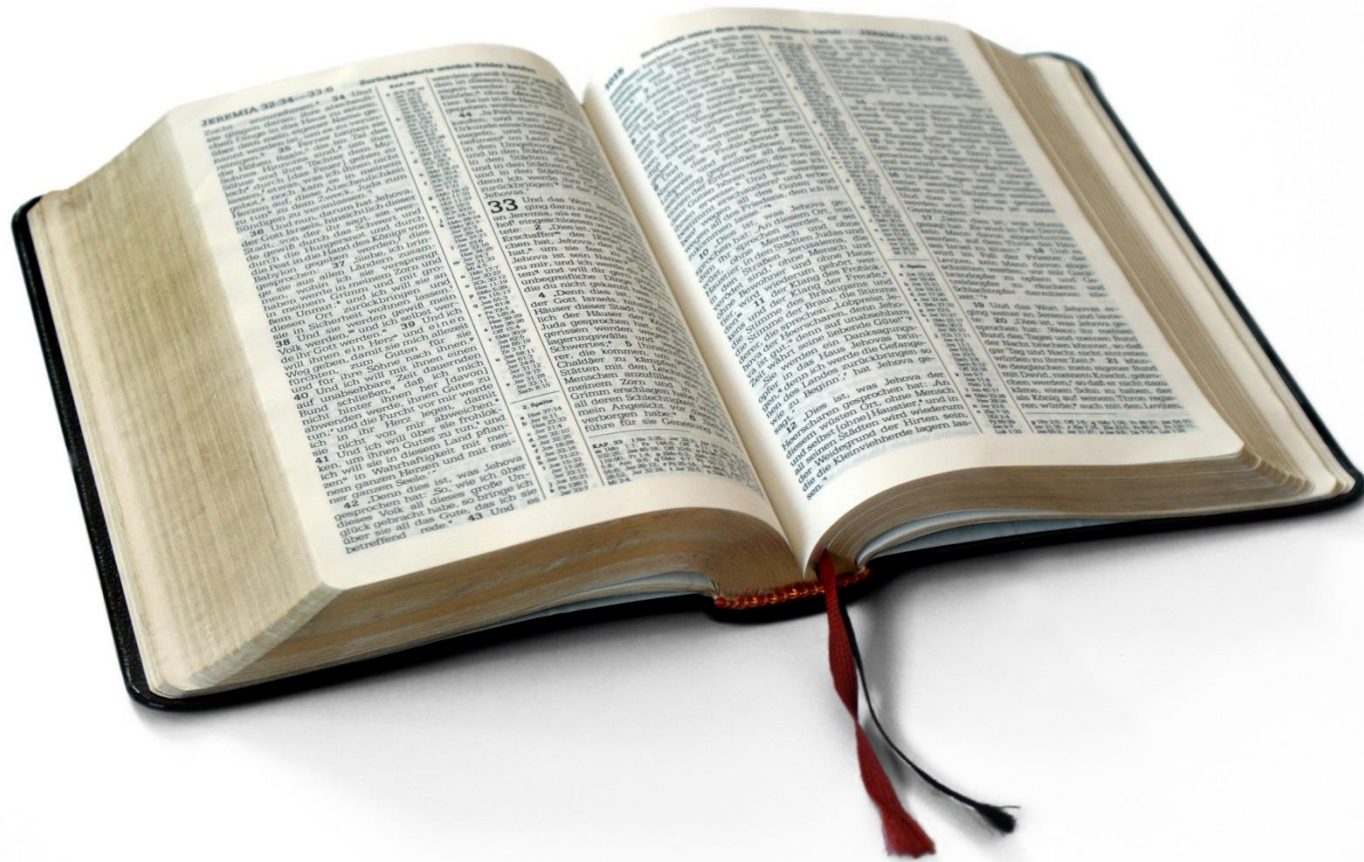
# The cost of perfection...

- In 2010, America spent \$33.3 billion on beauty



...or, at least, the  
appearance of perfection

The scriptures are full of people who accomplished great things for a great God, but the honesty of God's word gives us a glimpse of their struggles, bad decisions, and failures.



# Purpose

- The accounts for this week will include the “warts” of the biblical heroes
- The attempt is to remind us of the humanity behind the heroes (not destroy their legacies)
- Idolatry, cowardice, family issues, ignorant promises, murder, and a lack of self-control are prominent in the accounts of these heroes
- And you thought you had issues!

# Gideon: Judges 6-8



*“In times like these, it helps to recall  
that there have always been  
times like these.”*

**-Paul Harvey**

# Gideon: Judges 6:11

And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which *was* in Ophrah, that *pertained* unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide *it* from the Midianites.

# Gideon: Successes

- Gideon's commission by the angel of the Lord
- Gideon proves God
- Destroying a family altar
- Assembling an army
- Sending recruits home
- Gathering intelligence
- Defeating the Midianites



# Gideon: Judges 8:22-24

Then the men of Israel said unto Gideon, Rule thou over us, both thou, and thy son, and thy son's son also: for thou hast delivered us from the hand of Midian.

And Gideon said unto them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the LORD shall rule over you.

And Gideon said unto them, I would desire a request of you, that ye would give me every man the earrings of his prey. (For they had golden earrings, because they *were* Ishmaelites.)

# Gideon: Judges 8:25-26

And they answered, We will willingly give *them*. And they spread a garment, and did cast therein every man the earrings of his prey.

And the weight of the golden earrings that he requested was a thousand and seven hundred *shekels* of gold; beside ornaments, and collars, and purple raiment that *was* on the kings of Midian, and beside the chains that *were* about their camels' necks.

# Gideon: Judges 8:27-28

And Gideon made an ephod thereof, and put it in his city, *even* in Ophrah: and all Israel went thither a whoring after it: which thing became a snare unto Gideon, and to his house.

Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more. And the country was in quietness forty years in the days of Gideon.

# Gideon: The Rest of the Story

- Gideon would retire and live out his days
- 70 sons are born to his wives
- 1 son is born to a concubine
- The one son, Abimelech, would kill 69 of Gideon's sons to become a self-appointed king
- He would burn 2 towns chasing an enemy and eventually be injured by a woman dropping a millstone and request his armor-bearer kill him

# Gideon: The Rest of the Story

- Gideon's strength: questioning God, seeking answers
- Gideon's weakness: fear
- Gideon's success: Allowing God to overcome his fears and bravely lead God's army
- Gideon's failure: He did not seek God about fashioning an \$822,800.00 ephod (approx.)

# Gideon: The Rest of the Story

What does this mean for us today?

*Strength* that knows itself to be a *strength*, is a *weakness*. *Weakness* that know itself to be a *weakness*, is a *strength*.

We will see these Bible greats never failed in their weaknesses, but rather, their strengths.

# Barak: Judges 4-5



*"I've never seen a monument  
erected for a pessimist."  
-Paul Harvey*

# Judges 4:6-7

And she sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedeshnaphtali, and said unto him, Hath not the LORD God of Israel commanded, *saying*, Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun?

And I will draw unto thee to the river Kishon Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into thine hand.

# Judges 4:8-9

And Barak said unto her, If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, *then* I will not go.

And she said, I will surely go with thee: notwithstanding the journey that thou takest shall not be for thine honour; for the LORD shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh.

# Judges 4:10-11

And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and he went up with ten thousand men at his feet: and Deborah went up with him.

Now Heber the Kenite, *which was* of the children of Hobab the father in law of Moses, had severed himself from the Kenites, and pitched his tent unto the plain of Zaanaim, *which is* by Kedesh.

# Judges 4:12-13

And they shewed Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam was gone up to mount Tabor.

And Sisera gathered together all his chariots, *even* nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people that *were* with him, from Harosheth of the Gentiles unto the river of Kishon.

# Judges 4:14-15

And Deborah said unto Barak, Up; for this *is* the day in which the LORD hath delivered Sisera into thine hand: is not the LORD gone out before thee? So Barak went down from mount Tabor, and ten thousand men after him.

And the LORD discomfited Sisera, and all *his* chariots, and all *his* host, with the edge of the sword before Barak; so that Sisera lighted down off *his* chariot, and fled away on his feet.

# Judges 4:16-17

But Barak pursued after the chariots, and after the host, unto Harosheth of the Gentiles: and all the host of Sisera fell upon the edge of the sword; *and* there was not a man left.

Howbeit Sisera fled away on his feet to the tent of Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite: for *there was* peace between Jabin the king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite.

# Judges 4:18-19

And Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said unto him, Turn in, my lord, turn in to me; fear not. And when he had turned in unto her into the tent, she covered him with a mantle.

And he said unto her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water to drink; for I am thirsty. And she opened a bottle of milk, and gave him drink, and covered him.

# Judges 4:20-21

Again he said unto her, Stand in the door of the tent, and it shall be, when any man doth come and enquire of thee, and say, Is there any man here? that thou shalt say, No.

Then Jael Heber's wife took a nail of the tent, and took an hammer in her hand, and went softly unto him, and smote the nail into his temples, and fastened it into the ground: for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died.

# Judges 4:22-23

And, behold, as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him, and said unto him, Come, and I will shew thee the man whom thou seekest. And when he came into her *tent*, behold, Sisera lay dead, and the nail *was* in his temples.

So God subdued on that day Jabin the king of Canaan before the children of Israel.

# Barak: The Rest of the Story

- As a general, Barak seems to be indecisive in matters of war
- He is hesitant to first go to battle without Deborah and then is prompted by her to engage his enemy
- Barak's hesitance ensures the glory of this victory would go to another
- *Deborah*, Hebrew for *bee* (busy with direction)

# Barak: The Rest of the Story

- Deborah of *Lappidoth*, Hebrew for *torches*
- *Barak*, Hebrew for *lightning*
- Another pagan god of the area referred to as the god of “torches and lightning” was credited with controlling storms
- Deborah’s song in Judges 5 records Sisera’s chariots are defeated due to a torrential flood in a small ditch

# Barak: The Rest of the Story

- The hero of this story is a housewife who takes matters into her own hand and, without backup, assassinates a general who commanded many men plus 900 chariots of iron

# Barak: The Rest of the Story

- Barak's strength: Finishing what he started
- Barak's weakness: Getting started
- Barak's success: Leading God's army against Sisera
- Barak's failure: His hesitance required others to aid in this victory

# Barak: The Rest of the Story

What does this mean for us today?



# Barak: The Rest of the Story

What does this mean for us today?

Victory is not only gained in the *fight*, but in the *faith*.

God's people must learn to live on *promises* – not *explanations*.

Sometimes godly women stand when strong men will not.

# Jephthah: Judges 11



*“If there is a 50/50 chance that something can go wrong, then 9 times out of 10 it will.”*

*-Paul Harvey*

# Judges 11:1-2

Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valour, and he *was* the son of an harlot: and Gilead begat Jephthah.

And Gilead's wife bare him sons; and his wife's sons grew up, and they thrust out Jephthah, and said unto him, Thou shalt not inherit in our father's house; for thou *art* the son of a strange woman.

# Judges 11:3-4

Then Jephthah fled from his brethren, and dwelt in the land of Tob: and there were gathered vain men to Jephthah, and went out with him.

And it came to pass in process of time, that the children of Ammon made war against Israel.

# Judges 11:5-6

And it was so, that when the children of Ammon made war against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to fetch Jephthah out of the land of Tob:

And they said unto Jephthah, Come, and be our captain, that we may fight with the children of Ammon.

# Judges 11:9-10

And Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead, If ye bring me home again to fight against the children of Ammon, and the LORD deliver them before me, shall I be your head?

And the elders of Gilead said unto Jephthah, The LORD be witness between us, if we do not so according to thy words.

# Judges 11:11-12

Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and captain over them: and Jephthah uttered all his words before the LORD in Mizpeh.

And Jephthah sent messengers unto the king of the children of Ammon, saying, What hast thou to do with me, that thou art come against me to fight in my land?

# Judges 11:23-24

So now the LORD God of Israel hath dispossessed the Amorites from before his people Israel, and shouldest thou possess it?

Wilt not thou possess that which Chemosh thy god giveth thee to possess? So whomsoever the LORD our God shall drive out from before us, them will we possess.

# Judges 11:27-28

Wherefore I have not sinned against thee, but thou doest me wrong to war against me: the LORD the Judge be judge this day between the children of Israel and the children of Ammon.

Howbeit the king of the children of Ammon hearkened not unto the words of Jephthah which he sent him.

# Judges 11:29-30

Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over *unto* the children of Ammon.

And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, If thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands,

# Judges 11:31-32

Then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD'S, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.

So Jephthah passed over unto the children of Ammon to fight against them; and the LORD delivered them into his hands.

# Judges 11:33-34

And he smote them from Aroer, even till thou come to Minnith, *even* twenty cities, and unto the plain of the vineyards, with a very great slaughter. Thus the children of Ammon were subdued before the children of Israel.

And Jephthah came to Mizpeh unto his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances: and she *was his* only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter.

# Judges 11:35

And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he rent his clothes, and said, Alas, my daughter! thou hast brought me very low, and thou art one of them that trouble me: for I have opened my mouth unto the LORD, and I cannot go back.

# Judges 11:36

And she said unto him, My father, *if* thou hast opened thy mouth unto the LORD, do to me according to that which hath proceeded out of thy mouth; forasmuch as the LORD hath taken vengeance for thee of thine enemies, *even* of the children of Ammon.

# Judges 11:37-38

And she said unto her father, Let this thing be done for me: let me alone two months, that I may go up and down upon the mountains, and bewail my virginity, I and my fellows.

And he said, Go. And he sent her away *for* two months: and she went with her companions, and bewailed her virginity upon the mountains.

# Judges 11:39-40

And it came to pass at the end of two months, that she returned unto her father, who did with her *according* to his vow which he had vowed: and she knew no man. And it was a custom in Israel,

*That* the daughters of Israel went yearly to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in a year.

# Jephthah: The Rest of the Story

- Jephthah's life started with overcoming a difficult background
- He was driven from home by his own family, but in this difficult time, God forged a great warrior
- God would later use this man as a deliverer of Israel

# Jephthah: The Rest of the Story

- Jephthah tried a political solution to avoid bloodshed, but was not afraid to engage his enemies on the field of battle either
- He knew his nation's history and reminded the Ammonites of the history between the two countries

# Jephthah: The Rest of the Story

- Just before he leaves for battle, Jephthah makes a rash vow to God to offer the first thing he sees upon returning home victorious as a burnt offering
- God despises human sacrifice and does not require any vow

# Jephthah: The Rest of the Story

- Jephthah's strength: Valor
- Jephthah's weakness: Vows
- Jephthah's success: Defeating the Ammonites
- Jephthah's failure: Blind promises

# Jephthah: The Rest of the Story

What does this mean for us today?



# Jephthah: The Rest of the Story

What does this mean for us today?

Be careful what we promise God.

Num 30:2 If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.

# Samson: Judges 13-16



*“For myself, success is ... to leave the woodpile a little higher than I found it.”*  
-Paul Harvey

# Judges 15:1-2

But it came to pass within a while after, in the time of wheat harvest, that Samson visited his wife with a kid; and he said, I will go in to my wife into the chamber. But her father would not suffer him to go in.

And her father said, I verily thought that thou hadst utterly hated her; therefore I gave her to thy companion: *is not her younger sister fairer than she?* take her, I pray thee, instead of her.

# Judges 15:3-4

And Samson said concerning them, Now shall I be more blameless than the Philistines, though I do them a displeasure.

And Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took firebrands, and turned tail to tail, and put a firebrand in the midst between two tails.

# Judges 15:5-6

And when he had set the brands on fire, he let *them* go into the standing corn of the Philistines, and burnt up both the shocks, and also the standing corn, with the vineyards *and* olives.

Then the Philistines said, Who hath done this? And they answered, Samson, the son in law of the Timnite, because he had taken his wife, and given her to his companion. And the Philistines came up, and burnt her and her father with fire.

# Judges 15:7-8

And Samson said unto them, Though ye have done this, yet will I be avenged of you, and after that I will cease.

And he smote them hip and thigh with a great slaughter: and he went down and dwelt in the top of the rock Etam.

# Judges 15:9-10

Then the Philistines went up, and pitched in Judah, and spread themselves in Lehi.

And the men of Judah said, Why are ye come up against us? And they answered, To bind Samson are we come up, to do to him as he hath done to us.

# Judges 15:11-12

Then three thousand men of Judah went to the top of the rock Etam, and said to Samson, Knowest thou not that the Philistines *are* rulers over us? what *is* this *that* thou hast done unto us? And he said unto them, As they did unto me, so have I done unto them.

And they said unto him, We are come down to bind thee, that we may deliver thee into the hand of the Philistines. And Samson said unto them, Swear unto me, that ye will not fall upon me yourselves.

# Judges 15:13-14

And they spake unto him, saying, No; but we will bind thee fast, and deliver thee into their hand: but surely we will not kill thee. And they bound him with two new cords, and brought him up from the rock.

*And* when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and the cords that *were* upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands.

# Judges 15:15-16

And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith.

And Samson said, With the jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps, with the jaw of an ass have I slain a thousand men.

# Judges 15:17-18

And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking, that he cast away the jawbone out of his hand, and called that place Ramathlehi.

And he was sore athirst, and called on the LORD, and said, Thou hast given this great deliverance into the hand of thy servant: and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?

# Judges 15:19-20

But God clave an hollow place that *was* in the jaw, and there came water thereout; and when he had drunk, his spirit came again, and he revived: wherefore he called the name thereof Enhakkore, which *is* in Lehi unto this day.

And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.

# Samson: The Rest of the Story

- Samson's life was one of great promise, set aside by God for a specific purpose
- Raised by godly parents seeking his well-being
- Given great gifts by the Holy Spirit to defend and judge God's chosen people
- Sadly, most of the content of Samson's life recalls the amount of collateral damage suffered by those around him

# Samson: The Rest of the Story

- Even though the Holy Spirit would come on him, his main direction was provided by his appetites (women, parties, mood swings, violence, depression, etc.)
- His acquaintances were often placed in harm's way by the actions of Samson or his enemies
- This story is of one who could conquer any external foe but fell to inward struggles

# Samson: The Rest of the Story

- In this account of his life, we see his own countrymen handing him over to the enemy of their own nation
- In this respect, Samson is a type of Christ as he does not resist his own turning him over to the Gentiles bound, but would eventually break the bonds of death and the grave to conquer His enemies

# Samson: The Rest of the Story

- Samson's strength: Physical power
- Samson's weakness: Self-control
- Samson's victory: Defeating the Philistines
- Samson's failure: Defeating himself



# Samson: The Rest of the Story

What does this mean for us today?

Despite the failures and faults, Samson was still useful to God. We see moments of brightness despite the hours of personal darkness.

Let the believer rejoice that the Spirit now dwells in us, not only on us.

# David: 1 & 2 Samuel



***"The road to success is  
always under construction."***

**-Paul Harvey**

## 2 Samuel 12:10-11

Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.

Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give *them* unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.

# 2 Samuel 12:10-11

- These verses set the context of the next account
- Although he was a great man of God, David made decisions that would haunt his household for generations
- As great a king as David was, there would be another who would establish the throne forever

## 2 Samuel 13:1-2

And it came to pass after this, that Absalom the son of David had a fair sister, whose name *was* Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her.

And Amnon was so vexed, that he fell sick for his sister Tamar; for she *was* a virgin; and Amnon thought it hard for him to do any thing to her.

## 2 Samuel 13:3-4

But Amnon had a friend, whose name *was* Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother: and Jonadab *was* a very subtil man.

And he said unto him, Why *art* thou, *being* the king's son, lean from day to day? wilt thou not tell me? And Amnon said unto him, I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister.

## 2 Samuel 13:5-6

And Jonadab said unto him, Lay thee down on thy bed, and make thyself sick: and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, I pray thee, let my sister Tamar come, and give me meat, and dress the meat in my sight, that I may see *it*, and eat *it* at her hand.

So Amnon lay down, and made himself sick: and when the king was come to see him, Amnon said unto the king, I pray thee, let Tamar my sister come, and make me a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat at her hand.

## 2 Samuel 13:7-8

Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, Go now to thy brother Amnon's house, and dress him meat.

So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was laid down. And she took flour, and kneaded *it*, and made cakes in his sight, and did bake the cakes.

## 2 Samuel 13:9-10

And she took a pan, and poured *them* out before him; but he refused to eat. And Amnon said, Have out all men from me. And they went out every man from him.

And Amnon said unto Tamar, Bring the meat into the chamber, that I may eat of thine hand. And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought *them* into the chamber to Amnon her brother.

## 2 Samuel 13:11-12

And when she had brought *them* unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come lie with me, my sister.

And she answered him, Nay, my brother, do not force me; for no such thing ought to be done in Israel: do not thou this folly.

## 2 Samuel 13:13-14

And I, whither shall I cause my shame to go? and as for thee, thou shalt be as one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, I pray thee, speak unto the king; for he will not withhold me from thee.

Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice: but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her.

## 2 Samuel 13:15-16

Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her *was* greater than the love wherewith he had loved her. And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone.

And she said unto him, *There is* no cause: this evil in sending me away *is* greater than the other that thou didst unto me. But he would not hearken unto her.

## 2 Samuel 13:17-18

Then he called his servant that ministered unto him, and said, Put now this *woman* out from me, and bolt the door after her.

And *she had* a garment of divers colours upon her: for with such robes were the king's daughters *that were* virgins apparelled. Then his servant brought her out, and bolted the door after her.

## 2 Samuel 13:19-20

And Tamar put ashes on her head, and rent her garment of divers colours that *was* on her, and laid her hand on her head, and went on crying.

And Absalom her brother said unto her, Hath Amnon thy brother been with thee? but hold now thy peace, my sister: he *is* thy brother; regard not this thing. So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

## 2 Samuel 13:22, 26

And Absalom spake unto his brother Amnon neither good nor bad: for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.

Then said Absalom, If not, I pray thee, let my brother Amnon go with us. And the king said unto him, Why should he go with thee?

## 2 Samuel 13:28-29

Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant.

And the servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and every man gat him up upon his mule, and fled.

# David: The Rest of the Story

- David's strength: Integrity
- David's weakness: Infidelity
- David's victory: A man after God's own heart
- David's failure: Allowing his heart to focus on other things

# David: The Rest of the Story

- David was a man after God's own heart, warrior, shepherd, musician, writer, worship leader, and prophet
- David was also human and made bad decisions, some of which lived out their sinful cycle in his household
- Murder, rape, sedition, and treason all occurred in the king's family

# David: The Rest of the Story

- In this particular account, we see the incestuous desire of one's own sister, a plan carried out to take the woman as his own, and an eventual murder plot
- All of these echo the actions of the father

# David: The Rest of the Story

What does this mean for us today?



# David: The Rest of the Story

What does this mean for us today?

There is a fine line between how families are exposed to sin by the parents and what decisions are made by the children. As parents we are responsible for things entering the home, however, our children are responsible for their own actions.

# David: The Rest of the Story

David's successes are so exalted that it is difficult to ever achieve some of the things recorded in scripture, but, if we recall the mistakes, we see the human side of one of the Bible greats.

David's story is as much of one struggling with family issues as it was of one slaying giants and writing prophetic songs.

# Just add Faith

Aside from Jesus, God has never chosen a perfect servant or a hero of myth. He accomplishes the supernatural with the ordinary.



# Hebrews 11:6

But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.