

2 Samuel 13:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Amnon and Tamar, emphasizing unresolved sin, family breakdown. Amnon's rape of Tamar and Absalom's revenge illustrate how unresolved sin metastasizes into family-wide dysfunction. David's failure to discipline Amnon (possibly from guilt over his own sexual sin) enabled further tragedy. Hebrew terminology emphasizes Tamar's desolation and Absalom's calculated hatred. The narrative demonstrates intergenerational sin consequences and the necessity of proper justice administration.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 13 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity. Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding unresolved sin, family breakdown provide

crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare, covenant relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid anachronistic interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of unresolved sin, family breakdown?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

Interlinear Text

מִשְׁכָּבְךָ עַל שָׁכַב בַּיָּה וְנָדָב בַּלּוֹ וְאָמַרְתָּ
on thy bed H4904 **unto him Lay thee down** H7901 **And Jonadab** H3082 **said** H559

וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲרָאָה אָבִי יָבֹא תָבֹא וְהִתְחַל וְאָמַרְתָּ
said H559 **that I may see** H7200 **and when thy father** H1 **come** H935 **and make thyself sick** H2470

וְתִבְרַךְ נִי אֲחוֹתִי יִתָּמָר רָנָא תָבֹא אֵלַי יוֹ
and give H1262 **unto him I pray thee let my sister** H269 **Tamar** H8559 **come** H935

אֶשֶׁר לִמֵּן עַן הַבָּרֶה אֶת לְעֵינַי וְעָשִׂיתָ הָלֶחֶם
the meat H1279 **the meat** H853 **in my sight** H5869 **and dress** H6213 **me meat** H3899

מִדָּה: וְאָכַלְתָּ יִאֲרָאָה הָ
it at her hand H3027 **it and eat** H398 **that I may see** H7200