Del Norte Triplicate

COMMUNITY

Tragedy, Leadership, and the Home

By Tori King November 13, 2026

2 Samuel 13–19 contains a generational root and a cautionary tale about the dangers of parental enablement, unaddressed trauma, and passive leadership. David's history in the Bible teaches us how he failed to deal properly with the sins of his own house.

2 Samuel 11:1–27: David had an affair with Bathsheba, a married woman. He tried to cover up her pregnancy by plotting to have her husband, Uriah, killed on the front line of the battlefield. In the immediate aftermath, the prophet Nathan confronts David and declares that God forgives him, but "the sword," meaning trouble, will never depart from his house in 2 Samuel 12. This means there are consequences for sin even though we are forgiven, but the mercy of God is never-ending. Let us face these broken places in our own lives so we can make better choices for our families.

2 Samuel 13:1–21: Amnon, David's eldest son and heir, lusts after his half-sister, Tamar. Guided by the crafty advice of Jonadab, David's nephew, Amnon pretends to be sick, tricks King David into sending Tamar to his quarters, and rapes her. When King David hears what happened, he is "very angry," yet he takes no action to discipline or punish Amnon. David's guilt over his own sin with Bathsheba likely paralyzed his moral authority as a father.

Absalom hated his brother Amnon and did not speak a single word, good or bad, to him for two full years. He concealed his intense hatred while quietly plotting a lethal retaliation and had his servants assassinate Amnon on command.

After three years in hiding, Absalom turned the public against David and tried to steal his father's throne. King David's passivity remained his greatest flaw, extending all the way to the end of Absalom's life. The ultimate tragedy is unaddressed family hurt and division.

David's inability to balance love with holy discipline allowed generational issues to continue. By shielding his son from God's standard of justice, David lost both his son and the moral authority of his leadership, mirroring the modern tragedy of parents who allow dysfunction to grow until it destroys the home.

Praying for the restoration of our families is the first step toward healing our fractured world because even the worst of our failures is not the end. There is always hope with Jesus!