**AMNON AND TAMAR**

*Allow me to use the story Amnon and Tamar in 2 Samuel 13 as a stepping stone to further explain the concept of protection. Here’s a condensed version of the story: Absalom, the son of David, had a beautiful sister named Tamar. Amnon, his stepbrother, loved her. Tamar was a virgin, and Amnon became so frustrated over his inability to seduce her that he actually made himself physically sick. He had a shrewd friend named Jonadab, and, in a scene typical of a modern-day locker room, Jonadab concocted a scheme by which Amnon could get Tamar alone 33and violate her.*

He told Amnon to pretend to be sick and the king to send Tamar to prepare a meal for him in private. King David believed Amnon’s story and sent Tamar to tend to her sick brother. Once she arrived, Amnon sent all the servants away and raped her. Having satisfied his physical lust, he then sent away.

As we look at different aspects of this story, we can learn some things that will help us.

THE PROBLEM WITH LUST

Amnon noticed Tamar. He wasn’t thinking, “Oh, that Tamar! Her mind is exquisite. I just love the way she thinks and the way she is able to convey her ideas so clearly. You should hear how she discusses political science! I really like that.”

Simply put, he lusted after her. He noticed her beauty, and then he allowed those thoughts to turn to lust. His original attraction toward her might not have been sin; it was what he did with that attraction that determined if it became sin or not. We all notice the opposite sex, and we all face sexual temptation.

“No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Thoughts of sexual temptation are not reason for condemnation. However, what we do with those thoughts is the determining factor.

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| Name | Maths | English | Kiswahili |
| Jonh | 40 | 60 | 91 |
| peter | 70 | 73 | 88 |
| James | 51 | 47 | 98 |
| Andrew | 38 | 56 | 71 |