



COMING UP ... NOV 24 2 Sam 15-19 **DEC 1** NO CLASS (Thanksgiving) **DEC 8** David's Psalms **DEC 15** 2 Sam 20-23
(Cantata at all services)

"CAT'S IN THE CRADLE" by Harry Chapin (see p. 4)

2 SAMUEL 13-14

For good and for ill our children follow our example; much more is caught than taught
David was a tremendous warrior, yet he was a less than effective father (1 Kings 1:6)
His choices lately have been downright sinful
Now his two young-adult sons are following closely in their father's footsteps ...
They're following David's example

LESSON THEME: The destructive power of David's bad example

Amnon (2 Sam 13:1-22)

The players

Amnon: David's firstborn son and heir-apparent
Tamar: Amnon's half-sister/Absalom's full-sister
Jonadab: Amnon's cousin

The crime

Amnon indulges his lust and abuses his privileges
His cousin doesn't stop him but helps him sin
Amnon rapes Tamar

The aftermath

Amnon has lied, schemed and taken the woman he wanted ... or thought he deserved
He then hatefully rejects her and has her removed

David's response

Anger over his son taking what wasn't his (LUST)
But his own past sin shuts his mouth and stays his hand from taking action against his son
"My boy is just like me."

Absalom (2 Sam 13:23-14:33)

The players

Amnon
Absalom: 3rd born and 2nd in line for the throne

The revenge

He hates Amnon for what he did to Tamar (13:22)
He's had two years to pre-meditate the murder ...
... and two years to plan his escape
Absalom's men murder Amnon after he gets drunk

The estrangement

Absalom runs to Geshur and hides out for 3 years
After the "wise" woman's story, David knows he can't write Absalom off and so sends for him
But Absalom returns to "distance" and silence from his father, living under house arrest

The truce

After Absalom initiates, David finally summons his estranged son and they "kiss and make up"

David's Response

He's struggling to forgive Absalom

He's struggling to reconcile with Absalom

But David's past sin has shut his mouth and stayed his hand from taking action against his son (MURDER)

"My boy is just like me."

Summary: Amnon and Absalom

David couldn't control his own passions; neither could he control his sons

They lived selfish, self-directed lives

They took what they wanted or thought they deserved ...

Amnon (thru lust) and Absalom (thru murder)

David never stepped in or pushed back

Shame and regret over past sins paralyzed him

What About Us?

Do you find yourself unable to discipline your teenagers ... because of your past sins?

Do you find it difficult to stand up publically for the Truth today ... because of violations against the Truth in your past?

Are you paralyzed by shame and regret over your past?

Application: Are your past sins shutting your mouth or staying your hand?

Come To Terms With Your Past

We all have past sins in our lives, things we regret doing ... perhaps for the rest of our lives

It's also true—some of those past sins still have present consequences

But in Christ you're no longer who you were, you've been forgiven and cleansed; receive it

Walk like "Christian" in *The Pilgrim's Progress*

Live tomorrow in the acceptance and security of being a "forgiven one," not a perfect one

FOR NEXT TIME: _____

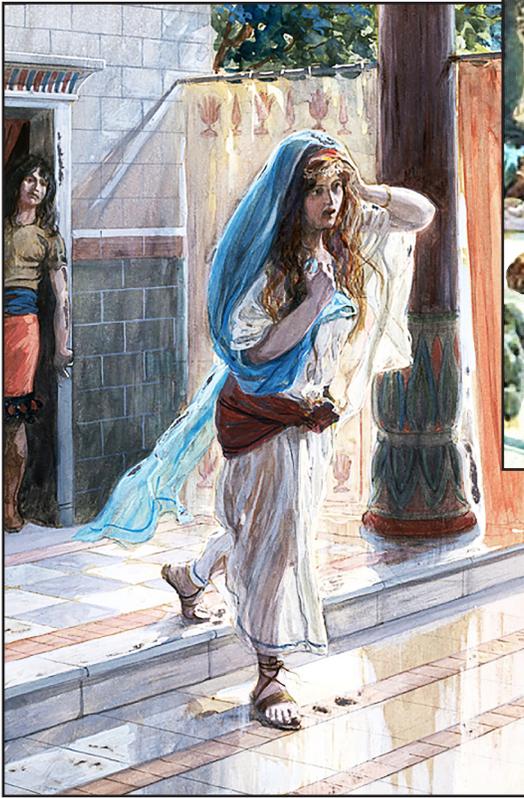
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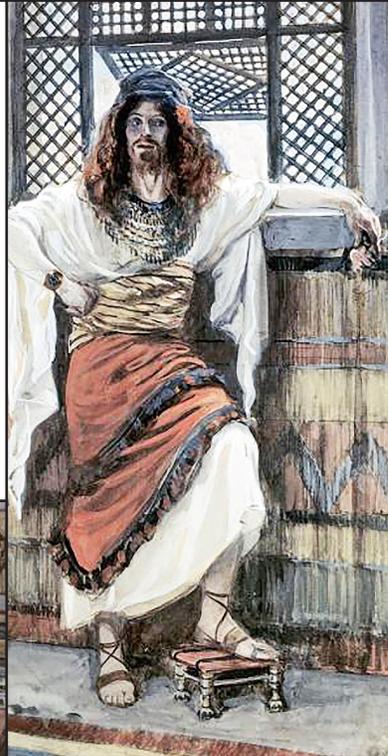
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"The Desolation Of Tamar" by James Tissot



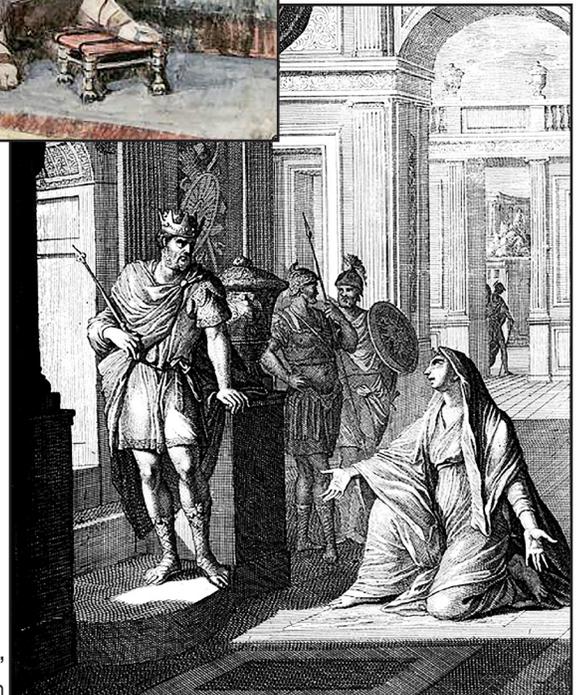
"Absalom Causeth Amnon To Be Slain" by James Tissot



"Absalom" by James Tissot



"David Mourns His Son Absalom" by James Tissot



"The Wise Woman Of Tekoah" by Caspar Luken

BEHIND THE SONG: Cat's in the Cradle

by Mike Grayeb, *Circle* newsletter, Winter 2004, www.HarryChapin.com

It's been 30 years since Harry first sang the song that his brother Tom said "put more fathers ill at ease than any other song in history."

"Cat's In The Cradle" reached the top of the Billboard music charts in December 1974. It earned Harry a Grammy nomination for Best Song. Children bought the record for their parents, and wives played it for their husbands. Ministers used the story in their sermons; and business leaders, school teachers and newspaper columnists cited the song's lyrics on Father's Day. The song was covered by Judy Collins, Johnny Cash, and country singer Ricky Skaggs.

So how did "Cat's In The Cradle" come to be?

Harry often described a poem his wife Sandy had written about him not being around enough for his newborn son Josh. But that was only part of the story. Sandy recalled two sources of inspiration for the poem: the relationship between her first husband and his father, and a country music song she'd heard on the radio.

Sandy's first husband, James Cashmore, was the only child of John Cashmore. "[John] was a wonderful and interesting man; he was one of 11 children, and he never went past the fifth grade in school," Sandy said. "He started an office furniture company and built a successful business. Then he went into politics and was Borough President of Brooklyn for 25 years." John wanted James to be a judge, which he considered to be the most honorable profession. "He was trying to engineer the kind of career for his son that he couldn't have himself because of his lack of education."

When James went away to college, his father gave him a membership to the country club, a baby blue car and plenty of credit cards, she said. "His father had spoken to a Senator to get him into law school. His father arranged for him to be sworn into the service the day he was supposed to take the bar exam. In those days, if you were called into service the day of the bar exam, you didn't have to take the bar exam—you automatically passed."

"These things made James feel like his life was a fix," she said. "He wasn't the energetic, charismatic person that his father was. By the time I met him, even though he was intelligent and was accomplished at so much, he had no sense of himself." Sandy and James lived with his parents while apartment hunting in New York. During this period the awkward father-son relationship became even more apparent.

"During dinner my father-in-law would speak to his son through me: 'Tell Jimmy to show up at the club on Tuesday,' he'd say. I thought it was the most incredible thing I'd ever seen. They were polite to each other, but they didn't really communicate." After she and James were divorced, Sandy reflected on what she'd seen. "In hindsight I realized that you have to communicate with your children from the time they're two years old."

After Sandy married Harry, a country music song on the radio caught her attention. "It was about a man and a woman sitting at their kitchen table and looking out to the backyard. They had a swing set and a sandbox and bicycle in the corner," she said. "They were talking about how it all went by so fast and how they could have spent more time, and now the kids are gone. That song put me in the mood for writing a lyric."

Sandy scratched out three verses about a child getting older, the story of which Harry eventually used as the basis for "Cat's In The Cradle." "He came home and I showed him the poem, and he sort of brushed it aside," she said. After Josh was born a year later, Harry picked it up again. "He said, 'Hey, this is great; I'm going to put some music to it.'"

To create the chorus, Harry reworked lines from various nursery rhymes and drew especially from *The Cat and The Fiddle*. "Harry wrote exactly the right upbeat melody over a sad lyric, and it was very catchy so people could sing it," she said. "There is probably a twitch in people's brain from their childhood, a familiarity. It was a happy combination of circumstances."

When Harry's album was about to be released, Geffen Records selected "Cat's In The Cradle" as the album's lead single. "Harry came home and told me that, and I said, 'You can't do that; it's ridiculous. That song will only appeal to 45-year-old men, and they don't buy records.'" The song went to number one, and it was Harry's only number one record. "It just goes to show how wrong you can be! I think the reason people respond is because it's a real life story, and everybody has a piece of that experience. We still get letters about that song today. The whole point of the story is that we learn our lessons in life by making mistakes. It would be great if we could learn about the future ahead of time, but we have to learn the hard way. It's like the old saying—too old too soon, too wise too late."

Cat's In The Cradle

*Sung by Harry Chapin on the album "Verities & Balderdash"
Music and lyrics by Harry Chapin and Sandy Chapin*

A child arrived just the other day,
He came to the world in the usual way,
But there were planes to catch, and bills to pay;
He learned to walk while I was away.
And he was talkin' 'fore I knew it,
And as he grew he'd say, "I'm gonna be like you, yeah;
You know I'm gonna be like you."

And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon,
Little Boy Blue and the Man in the Moon.

"When ya comin' home, Dad?"

"I don't know when, but we'll get together then, son,
You know we'll have a good time then."

Well my son turned 10 just the other day,
He said, "Thanks for the ball, Dad,
Come on, let's play. Can you teach me to throw?"
I said, "Not today, I got a lot to do."

He said, "That's okay."

And then he walked away but his smile never dimmed,
He said, "I'm gonna be like him, yeah,
You know I'm gonna be like him."

And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon,
Little Boy Blue and the Man in the Moon.

"When ya comin' home, Dad?"

"I don't know when, but we'll get together then, son,
You know we'll have a good time then."

Well he came from college just the other day,
So much like a man I just had to say,
"Son, I'm proud of you. Can you sit for a while?"
He shook his head, and he said with a smile,
"What I'd really like, Dad, is to borrow the car keys.
See ya later, can I have them, please?"

And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon,
Little Boy Blue and the Man in the Moon.

"When ya comin' home, son?"

"I don't know when, but we'll get together then, Dad,
You know we'll have a good time then."

I've long since retired, my son's moved away;
I called him up just the other day.
I said, "I'd like to see you, if you don't mind."
He said, "I'd love to, Dad, if I can find the time.
You see my new job's a hassle and the kids have the flu,
But it's sure nice talkin' to you, Dad,
It's been sure nice talkin' to you."

And as I hung up the phone it occurred to me,
He'd grown up just like me.
My boy was just like me.

And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon,
Little Boy Blue and the Man in the Moon.

"When ya comin' home, son?"

"I don't know when, but we'll get together then, Dad,
You know we'll have a good time then."

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Harry Chapin and son Jono