

What Do You Do When You Really Mess up?

I. The Story Begins with a Marvelous Man

A. Only one other like him in the OT – A picture of the Coming King

⁶ "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." ⁷ I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. ⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. (Psalm 2)

B. David - having the approval of God himself:

²² "And when he had removed him [Saul], he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.'" (Acts 13)

II. The Story Continues: One of the Biggest Failings *Ever* among God's People

A. David's sin

¹David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel.... But David remained at Jerusalem. ² It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. ³ And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ⁴ So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (2 Samuel 11)

B. Truly a major league failure

⁵ because David did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and did not turn aside from anything that he commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite. (1 Kings 15)

III. The Story Given for Our Instruction

A. Sin is sin..... all sin is equal

¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. (James 2:10)

B. Sin has different consequences!

Summary: David's life was *irreversibly* changed – and not for the better, but was **not** irreparably lost

IV. What We Learn from David's Pain

A. Confess Openly:

³ David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. (2 Samuel 12)

⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. (Psalm 32)

B. Get re-connected to God

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. (Psalm 51)

C. Set right what you can

¹⁶ David therefore sought God on behalf of the child. And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. (2 Samuel 12)

D. Deal maturely with the negative consequences

- Somethings brought into play, which can't be put back in the box, therefore, readjust your life accordingly

²³ But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me." (2 Samuel 12)

E. Don't let guilt/fear of being called a hypocrite impact the future: do what is right

Two more awful stories:

1. Amnon and the rape of Tamar – Absalom outraged (2 Samuel 13)

2. The rebellion of Absalom

⁴ Then Absalom would say, "Oh that I were judge in the land! Then every man with a dispute or cause might come to me, and I would give him justice." ⁵ And whenever a man came near to pay homage to him, he would put out his hand and take hold of him and kiss him. ⁶ Thus Absalom did to all of Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel (2 Samuel 15)

F. Accept the pain which must come,– trusting God to do his work

⁷ And Shimei said [to David] as he cursed, "Get out, get out, you man of blood, you worthless man! ⁸ The LORD has avenged on you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned, and the LORD has given the kingdom into the hand of your son Absalom..." ¹¹ And David said to Abishai and to all his servants, "Behold, my own son seeks my life; how much more now may this Benjaminite! Leave him alone, and let him curse, for the LORD has told him to. ¹² It may be that the LORD will look on the wrong done to me, and that the LORD will repay me with good for his cursing today." (2 Samuel 16)

G. Look for the good that only God can bring out of evil.

²⁴ Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her, and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. And the LORD loved him ²⁵ and sent a message by Nathan the prophet. So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD. (2 Samuel 12)

V. The One Indispensable Attitude

⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." (James 4)

⁵ Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (1 Peter 5)