

Psalm 51 – When We Mess Up

Psalm 51:10-12

PW Emerson – 08/04/2019 – Ten:27 Ministries

We're doing a summer series on Psalms.

Today we're looking at Psalm 51 – When we mess up.

Psalm 51 was written by David – of David & Goliath fame.

David

- Man with a great heart
- Man after God's own heart
- Man willing to step out on faith, put his life on the line in serving God

God made David king of Israel

- Kept God's instructions at heart at every turn

Until

One day, as king, he stumbled ... in a very big way

We saw a woman who he wanted – Bathsheba. She was married, but David didn't care.

- David took her
- Slept with her
- Got her pregnant

Bathsheba's husband was away in battle ... which meant her getting pregnant would point to trouble

So, to make things easier, David made sure Bathsheba's husband was killed in battle.

David rigged the battle to make sure it would happen.

Thus David could take Bathsheba to be his, and they could live happily after.

But ... just as modern politicians have shown, you can't pull off something like that without some people knowing the truth.

Thus David was confronted by the prophet, Nathan.

As soon as David was confronted, Nathan KNEW he had done wrong.

Yes, he knew he was doing wrong all along. But it didn't really hit home until he was confronted by a man of God.

David, confronted with the magnitude of what he had done, wrote Psalm 51.

He wants to get back in God's good graces.

Psalm 51:10-12

¹⁰Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

¹¹Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

David really wants to get back in God's good graces.

We have all had times when we messed up – sometimes we mess up in big ways, sometimes we mess up in small ways.

We *know* when we've done wrong.

When that happens, how do we get back on track?

You and I have an advantage that David didn't have – we have the advantage of hindsight.

We know, historically, that God loves us so much that in the midst of our mistakes, God sent his son to die for us

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Getting back in God's good graces doesn't depend on

- How hard we try
- How much work we do
- On buying our way back in
- On earning God's approval

Getting back in God's good graces rests on God and God's mercy

Romans 9:16

¹⁶It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

Getting back in God's good graces depends on God and God made a pretty loud statement about it at the cross

Remember, God knew you were going to make the mistakes you've made BEFORE you made them.

Yet, God still called you to his purpose.

God still called you to serve him, even knowing the mistakes you were going to make!

When David messed up, he didn't crumble.

David repented.

God continued to love him AND CONTINUED TO USE HIM!

Romans 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

In all things, God works for good Even in our mistakes!

God can take our mistakes and use them for good! Even for great purposes!

Psalm 37:23-24 also a Psalm written by David

²³The LORD makes firm the steps
of the one who delights in him;

²⁴though he may stumble, he will not fall,
for **the LORD upholds him** with his hand.

Back in Genesis

God said to Abraham, you are going to have more descendants than there are stars in the sky ...

Genesis 15:5

⁵He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

But Abraham & Sarah were not patient.

In Genesis 16, Sarah said to Abraham ...

- I have not had any children
- Be with my servant Hagar so she can bear you a child and the line continue

Abraham did just that and Hagar had a son, Ishmael.

But, in Genesis 21, Sarah did get pregnant and had a son by Abraham, called Isaac.

With that, Sarah got jealous of Hagar & Ishmael and they were sent away.

If only Sarah & Abraham hadn't been so impatient.

If only they had trusted God to provide a son, the mess with Hagar could have been avoided.

Talk about messing up

But now for the rest of the story

Abraham's son Isaac had a son Jacob, who had 12 sons, one of which was Joseph.

This is the Joseph of the Joseph and the amazing coat of many colors.

Joseph's brothers were so jealous of him that

Genesis 37:23-27

²³So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing— ²⁴and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

²⁵As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

²⁶Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? ²⁷Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed.

The Ishmaelites, descendants of Ishmael, saved him and brought him to Egypt.

God took Abraham & Sarah's mess-up and used it for good.

Over time, Joseph became the leader in Egypt, the 2nd in command over everyone in the nation except Pharaoh.

Joseph managed Egypt through a massive famine.

And Joseph told his brothers, when they were later re-united, that although their hearts were out to destroy Joseph, God used it for good.

Genesis 50:20

²⁰You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

When you mess up

- Your life is not over
- Your time serving God is not over

God can take your mess-up and use it for good!

Nehemiah 9:17

¹⁷They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles you performed among them. They became stiff-necked and in their rebellion appointed a leader in order to return to their slavery. But **you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them**

I have never been good with directions.

Before the days of GPS, you can't imagine how much I would get lost.

Almost every mission trip I lead, we would get lost, thanks to my talents.

NOW, we have GPS.

What happens if you are not paying attention and miss you turn?

It says, "REROUTING ..." and keeps point you toward the goal.

And if you miss your turn again?? It reroutes again, continuing to get you to the goal.

And if you miss it again?? It reroutes again ... and again ... and again.

Not matter how many times you miss the turn or take the wrong turn, it will keep pointing you the right way

No matter how many times we miss the mark in life

No matter how many times we mess up

No matter how many times we ignore God's direction, He CONTINUES to show us the way!

Psalm 18:16 also a Psalm written by David

¹⁶He reached down from on high and took hold of me;
he drew me out of deep waters

When you mess up, remember, God stands ready to forgive you.

You need to forgive yourself and move on.

Continue to serve God, love God, obey God, please God, follow God.

David said, in Psalm 51:10

¹⁰Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

He had the right spirit in him before and he wanted it back.

Thus David said to God, RENEW that spirit within me!

We know what it's like to walk with God, obey God and serve God.

Although I mess up, I really want to be back on track with God.

But, to truly get back on track with God, we have to

- Turn to God
- Ask for God's hand

David knew that, thus he said to God “Create in me a clean heart.”

God and God alone is the creator.

God is the one to create the right heart for us.

We can take our messed up heart, dust it off and be happy.

We need God to create a clean heart, a pure heart.

With a heart from God, we can be right with God again.

Henry Ford went bankrupt five times before he finally succeeded.

Thomas Edison failed hundreds of times in his attempts to find the correct filament for the light bulb.

You may find yourself wallowing in mistakes and failures.

Don't let them stop you.

Learn from your mistakes. Grow from them.

Turn to God to get you back on track.

Then continue on the path God wants you to be on in life!

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