

Lesson 5: Getting Back up When You Have Fallen Down

Text: 1 Samuel 12:13-15, 20-22 Now therefore behold the king whom ye have chosen, and whom ye have desired! and, behold, the LORD hath set a king over you. If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God: But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as it was against your fathers...
²⁰And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart; And turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain. For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people...

Purpose: Samuel wanted the people to realize the seriousness of their sin, the steadfast love of God, and His commitment to fulfill His covenant with them, so they could move forward in victory and experience His blessings even though they had failed Him.

Proposition: God wants you to respond properly to Him when you have sinned, so you can experience His blessings again.

Interrogative: What truths will enable us to respond properly to the Lord when we have sinned?

Truth 1: The consequences for our decisions do not go away: 12:13 Now therefore behold the king whom ye have chosen, and whom ye have desired! and, behold, the LORD hath set a king over you...

- **He is emphasizing that their sin has brought consequences and they are lasting...**
 - **Now...**Something has changed
 - **Therefore...**The change is based on something that has happened
 - **You have chosen and you have desired...**You not the Lord are the problem
 - **God has made the consequences of you decision lasting:** The LORD has set a king over you...

Truth 2: God's ways do not change: 12:14-15 If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God: But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as it was against your fathers...

The Mosaic Covenant was a conditional covenant: Deuteronomy 28

Deuteronomy 28:1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth...

Deuteronomy 28:15 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee...

- **Positive: If...then** you and the king will continue...
- **Negative: If...then** the hand of the LORD will be against you...

- God's people sinned and God promised to punish their sin. This is why they have suffered.
- God's people are still God's people. He has not destroyed them. This is because He made an unconditional covenant with Abraham in **Malachi 3:6** I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed... **Genesis 15** Even though Israel would sin miserably, God would not utterly abandon them.

Truth 3: We need to refocus when we have sinned: 12:20-21 And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart; And turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain...

Proverbs 24:16 A just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief...

Four wrong responses to sin:

- We think God is finished with us and we get discouraged.
- We are unwilling to face our sin honestly.
- We get distracted by worthless things.
- We have a divided heart.

Four commands to the people:

- **Do not fear:**
- **Reverence God: 12:14** If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God...
- **Do not think God is finished with you: 12:19** And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto the LORD thy God, that we die not: for we have added unto all our sins this evil, to ask us a king...
- **Face your sin honestly: 12:20** And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart...
- **Do not get distracted: 12:21** And turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain...
- **Focus your whole heart on serving the LORD: John 21:14-17** This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead. So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Truth 4: God's relationship to His people is always built on His grace: 12:22

For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people...

Malachi 3:6 I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed...

- God's people sinned and God promised to punish their sin. This is why they have suffered.
- God's people are still God's people. He has not destroyed them. This is because He made an unconditional covenant with Abraham in **Genesis 15**. After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward...

Romans 8:31-34 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us...

- Our position in Christ is rooted in the work of Christ alone and God's grace, and we need to be reminded of this truth when we have sinned.
- Our enjoyment of that position is rooted in the way we relate to God in that position.

Several Applications:

- **Do not deceive yourself thinking that your consequences will go away.**
- **Realize God's ways have not changed; this is why we must repent and turn back to His ways.**
- **Do not respond to the consequences of your sin the way the world responds: 2 Corinthians 7:10-11** For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter...
 - **Don't get discouraged and depressed fearing further consequences.**
 - **Face your sin honestly without making excuses.**
 - **Don't get distracted by worthless pursuits around you.**
 - **Focus all your attention on serving the Lord.**
 - **Rejoice in the great grace of God that brought you into God's family and will keep you till the day of Christ.**

Conclusion: God wants you to respond properly to Him when you have sinned, so you can experience His blessings again. May God in His grace plant these wonderful truths deep into our hearts so we will think and act in a way that honors Him!