

Confess Your Failures to God

July 12, 2009

2 Samuel 11-12

2 Samuel 12:5-7a ⁵David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die! ⁶He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity." ^{7a}Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man!"

I. Responses to Failure that Fail:

1. Eliminate the Accuser: "Kill the Messenger."

2. Deny the Accusation: Play "he said, she said."

3. Excuse the Behavior: "It's good to be the king."

4. Deflect the accusation: Play the "blame game."

2 Samuel 12:13a ^{13a}Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

II. Responses to Failure that Bring Life:

Psalms 51:1-2 ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. ²Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

1. Confess your guilt.

Psalms 51:3-4 ³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. ⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

2. Agree with God.

Psalms 51:7-9 ⁷Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. ⁹Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

3. Ask for cleansing.