

**GREATER THAN SERIES
GREATER THAN OUR FAILURES
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PSALM 51**

Have you ever failed? The things we don't like to talk about,

Q: Have you ever looked at someone and said they are a good person the kind that wouldn't ever get in trouble
And you think I'm always on the verge of some failing.

1 Sam 16:13

So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.

What a guy... he has everything going for him... He didn't look like much at first but, he kills Goliath, he kills a bear w/ a club.

He becomes one of the most successful leaders Israel has ever had...

Picture David in American Gladiator, or Survivor.

Catastrophic moral failure

David seems like a guy who will just sail through life... but of course this isn't how David's life plays out. He has this catastrophic moral failure.

He steps away from God... and finds himself murdering a loyal friend and servant, manipulates, lies, abuses, commits adultery, and murder.

Q: The question is how did the David of 1 Sam 16 wake up one morning as the David of 2 Sam 11?

(Story) Guys stealing Newspaper machine...

I didn't think about this until later... but, there had to be a bad moment for this guy. There had to be a moment when he wakes up in the ER of the Baylor infirmary.

When the Doctor says how did this happen? He probably didn't have a good answer, When his parents find out and ask What were you thinking? He probably didn't have a good answer.

Everyone is vulnerable to failure

David seemed immune to any major moral failure... but he wasn't. And His failure caught him off guard.

He didn't wake up one morning and say... how can blow-up my life to day... how could violate my relationship God in the most extreme way possible.

“sent”

God is going to use the word “sent” in a pointed way to reveal what’s happening in David’s heart.

~ It reveals David acting according to his own will... as if he were the God of his life.

2 Sam 11:1

In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David **sent** Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

He sends Joab... but he stays at home. The implication here is God’s desire for David to go into battle. Not for Joab to go in his place.

He just wants to stay at home... it’s not like it’s some big sin. It’s more like delegation... Delegation is good. God told Moses to delegate, so what’s the big deal.

The issue here is not whether David was leading the battle or staying at home.

- The issue is David is not walking in step with the spirit. The Spirit came on David with power, but David still has a choice... he can live in step with the Spirit, or out of step with the spirit.

Gal 5:16-17

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

¹⁷For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

Gal 5:25

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

- There exist the opportunity for every Christ follower to keep in step w/ the Spirit, or to walk out of step w/ the spirit.

Guitar Hero

My son is good at this... My wife is really good at this she’ll smoke me... my little girl is so good at this...

2 Sam 11:2-3a

One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, ³and David **sent** someone to find out about her.

Again this isn’t catastrophic, but he’s attracted to her, and he has a choice. He can turn his attraction and desires in the right direction or the wrong direction.

He can walk in-step with the spirit, or he can walk out-of step w/ God.

And this poor guy that he asks to help... he understands where this is going... and he tries to help...

:3b The man said, "Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

Guitar Hero & Cole: Come on dad... you've got to use your power-up!!! She trying to help me... she sees something I don't see...

This guy sees it... and yet David won't listen.

David is listening to the beat of a different drum... his own desires.

Fun, fun, fun The thing on David's heart is me, me, me.... Or Fun, fun, fun

2 Sam 11:4 Then David **sent** messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her.

Fun, fun, fun... and I'm sure he had a great time. Sin is fun... sex is fun...

Parents don't tell your kids it's not!

The issue is will I walk in-step or out of Step w/ God.

Panic, Panic, Panic

2 Sam 11:5 The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."

He's in the deep weeds now... the fun is over and now he's got a problem.

We know what that's like. We've been talking about someone and the walk.

Firefly "He's behind me right now..."

Personal... I was selfish...

Manage, manage, manage

2 Sam 11:6 So David **sent** this word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab **sent** him to David. 7 When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going. 8 *Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him.*

... the whole time you know... he saying to himself... just be cool man... just be cool man.... Just act normal...

"So are you having fun attacking the city yet?" "And hey, Uriah as long as you're in town... I bet you'd like to spend a night at home... if you know what I mean."

And David sends a fruit basket or something... just to help put them in the right mood.

: :9 *But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house.*

2 Sam 11:11

Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my master Joab and my lord's men are camped in the open fields. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and lie with my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!"

He can't get Uriah to sleep w/ his wife to make him think the baby would be his. So he decides to have Uriah die in battle

2 Sam 11:14-15

In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. 15 In it he wrote, "Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die."

Think of the loyalty of this man? David trusts him to carry his own letter of death. David sent... sent it w/ Uriah. And with that David murders a keep the secrete of steeling his wife.

He manipulates, and abuses people like Joab, Lies, sleeps with another man's wife... and them murders the man.

Big Question:

Is it too late for David... is there no coming back from this one?

Did he go to far... can he ever be forgiven... or if he can ever be forgiven can he be used by God... Is his life a wreck and that's just the way it's going to be?

Q: Is God greater than David's failure?

Is it too late for me?

If you're life is a song... have the notes stopped?

Did you fail at work... Did you failure your children... did you failure your spouse.

Did you fail God...? Maybe it's still a secret... but you know about it.

Q: Is God greater than my failure?

Q: If life is like a song on Guitar Hero... Is it too late to ever start hitting the notes again...?

I love the way Chapter 12 opens up... Chapter 11 is the all about David's control... acting like God... dominated by David controlling everything by sending people and letters here and there

Chapter 11, fun, fun, fun – panic, panic, panic – manage, manage, mange... This is life on his own... this my life when on my own.

Big Q:

Is God bigger than David's failure... is God bigger than my failures... your failures

Chapter 11 is over and Chapter 12 opens w/ God acting... and it opens with this simple little word we've seen so much of in chapter 11, but this time it's God doing the sending.

2 Sam 12:1

The LORD **sent** Nathan to David.

God doesn't come overpowering David... He doesn't come in an earthquake... Or a booming voice from the heavens. He sends Nathan... and David doesn't even know what's happening yet.

Nathan is so brilliant. He strikes to the heart through this simple little story about a rich man and a poor man. The Rich man is going to fire up the Weber Grill for a little Bar B Q, but instead of using one of his own sheep, he powers up on the poor man and takes the only sheep he has... a pet sheep.

And of course David burns with anger and says tell me who this bully is, he deserves to die, he's going to pay four times the going rate for a sheep... bla, bla, bla, bla.

Look at what Nathan says...

2 Sam 12:7

Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man"
Not "you'd man", but you... you are the man... you're the slimy little weasel that you said deserves to die, that guy.

God has sought out David... Sought him out to restore and mend his heart. God is saying... David, I'm bigger than your failures.

Application

⇒ God is bigger than your failure.... He's bigger than my failures

You may feel as if your failure has taken you out of the song... the guitar of life has been torn from your hands never to be returned... the song of your life will go on, but you don't get to play.

Friends

Here's what I desire for you to know in your heart & mind.

No matter what your failures are in this world... God sees through the haze of moral failures, bad attitudes, stupid choices, and the ugliness that we are capable of... theologians call this our sin nature... God understands all of this... and he sees who you were created to be.

He sees the beauty and the strength... He sees the love and grace you were created to live out and experiences.

God is bigger than your failures

God's heart

I want you to catch a glimpse of God's heart.

2 Sam 12:7

Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. 8 I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more.'

David sees that God is bigger than his sin...

Ps 51:1-2

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

Unfailing love, great compassion.... Blot out my transgressions

David's Moment

This is David's moment...

We might think of this as the moment that David got busted... This was a bad moment... the worst moment of his life...NO, no, no... David has had far worse moments....

- ✓ When he sent Joab off to war w/o him
- ✓ When he sent some poor guy off to check out Bathsheba for him
- ✓ When he had sent for Bathsheba
- ✓ When he put that letter in Uraiah's hand and sent him back to the front.

This was David's moment of Clarity... David's moment to see that God really is bigger than his worst failure.

God has carved out a moment in time & space where David has this choice.

Choice Time

Now it's choice time for David. Will he walk in step with the spirit, or will he walk out of step.

Here's My Question: Where are you? If you find yourself in some moment of being far from in step with God... This is your moment.

If you feel like the thing you've done ended your song... This is your moment. You don't have to leave here this morning the way you are right now.

Eventually

Eventually after the fun, after the panic, after the managing... comes the pain... You can keep sin a secret... but that never stops the inevitable pain

⇒ Right now is a perfect time to start walking in step with God again

Big take away... Even when we've walked out of step w/ God... when we've hit catastrophic failure... it's never too late... the option to walk in-step is always right there...

Sometimes I think we get bogged down in the pain and secrets of our sin. And we feel like it's too late, or we've got to wait for the right moment to...

Ps 32:3-4

³ When I kept silent,
my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
⁴ For day and night
your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was sapped
as in the heat of summer.
Selah

Cole got me back in the game....

Always another Note I'm playing Guitar Hero

Friends

Attractive woman

We all find our selves in this place.

When I see an attractive woman... I say that's an attractive woman and I have a choice - I can direct those thoughts and feelings toward my wife... or I can give those thoughts and desires to someone else...

↳ I can walk in-step with the spirit, or out of step w/ the spirit.

↳ I can play the notes God is putting in my heart, or I can play my own notes.

Hurt by someone

If someone hurts me... I can feel the hurt, process the hurt and forgive them... Or I can hold them in secret contempt... I can be passive aggressive, I can talk behind their back.

↳ I can play the notes of the spirit... or I can play my own notes.

↳ I can be contemptuous... or I can be forgiving.

Pause for a simple thought – God is bigger than our failures... but there are still consequences to our sin. Sometimes God chooses to eliminate the natural consequences of our sin, but most often God uses as a part of the lesson, to grow us.

⇒ We are all capable of falling far from God.

⇒ Now is a great time to begin walking in step with God again

If there's someone who's morals or life style are far from mine I can hold them in judgment... I can think of myself as superior,...

Or I can see them w/ love and Grace... and can choose to desire God's best for them.