

Intimacy with God

Lesson #3: Intimacy can be forfeited (and restored!)

I. Introduction

Failures and flakes in the scriptures

II. Case Study #1: The fall of David (1 Sam. 11:1-17)

A. David is a “good guy” who loves the Lord

1. Look at his “outbursts of love and loyalty to his God” (Ps. 18:1-3, Ps. 42:1 and Ps. 59:17)
2. Consider his titles “a man after God’s own heart” (Acts 13:22 and 1 Sam. 13:14) and “David, my servant” (Ps. 78:70, 89:20)
3. Note that David shepherded Israel according “to the integrity of his heart” (Ps. 78:72)

B. David is a “real guy” who “forfeited his treasured intimacy and went out into the dark, an adulterer and a murderer” (*Enjoying Intimacy with God*, p. 44)

1. The setting: He is at the wrong place at the wrong time.
2 Sam. 11:1 – David is in Jerusalem at “the time when Kings go out to battle.”
2. The Lust: He wants something that isn’t his
 - a. Look at 1 John 2:16
 - b. Consider that one sin led to another...which led to another...which led to another.
3. The Consequence: Relationally, he lost a great deal: His self respect, the respect of Israel’s leaders, his son died, he was never able to build the temple, etc.
4. The Loss of Intimacy: Spiritually, he lost even more!
Ps. 32:3-4, Ps. 51:3-12

C. David is a “changed guy,” restored to a right relationship with God.

1. God is a God of second chances
Jonah 3:1, Jer. 18:4
2. Spiritual restitution for the penitent
Isa. 57:18 “*I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will guide him and restore comfort to him,*”

Jer. 3:22 “*Return, faithless people; I will cure you of backsliding.*” “*Yes, we will come to you, for you are the LORD our God.*”

Micah 7:19 “*You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.*”
3. At the end of his life, note his song of thanksgiving. 2 Sam. 22:31, 33, 36 “...you stoop down to make me great.”

III. Case Study #2: The fall of Peter Matt 26 Mark 14 Luke 22 John 18

- A. The setting: He too is at the wrong place, at the wrong time
 Matt. 26:58 “Peter followed him afar off”
 John 18:15-16 “ Peter followed Jesus....stood at the door without ...”
- B. The Denial: He repeats his denial of Christ three times...including cursing (Mark 14:72)
- C. The Consequences: His loss of intimacy
 - a. The rebuke from the eyes of his Lord (Luke 22:61)
 - b. His broken heart (Luke 22:62)
 - c. His frustration with Christ’s words (John 21:17)

IV. Case Study #3: The Prodigal Son (Luke 15)

Verse 20: “So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.”

“And kissed him” Might be better translated “and kissed him much” or “kissed him earnestly” or “kissed him often”

As Spurgeon preached on 12/27/1891: *Much kissing means: much love, much forgiveness, full of restoration, exceeding joy, overflowing comfort, strong assurance regarding the future, intimate communion.*

V. Intimacy restored!

Look at Ps. 51

“Penitent soul! Dare to believe in the instantaneous forgiveness of sins. Thou hast only to utter the confession, to find it interrupted with the outbreak of the Father’s love. As soon as the words of penitence leave thy lips, they are met by the hurrying assurances of a love, which whilst it hates sin, has never ceased to yearn over the prodigal.” F.B. Meyer

Step 1: Acknowledge whom we offended with our sin

Verse 4: “Against 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.”

Step 2: Be willing to be honest about the sin

Verse 6: “Surely you desire truth in the inner parts you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.”

I John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Step 3: Seek Forgiveness

Verse 7: “Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.”

Step 4: Seek Restoration

- A. Positively (verse 10)
 - 1. Create in me a clean heart
 - 2. Renew a steadfast spirit within me
- B. Negatively (verse 11)
 - 1. Don’t cast me away

2. Don't take your Holy Spirit from me

Step 5: Restored and useful again (verse 12-19)

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever experienced a "fall" and a "restoration"?
2. In order to restore intimacy, what do you think is the most important "step"?