


STUDY 6

Growing Through Facing Sin

2 SAMUEL II:1-27; 12:1-14; PSALM 51

 While visiting friends in another city, we decided to go to a church where we knew the pastor and his wife. We approached them with some apprehension after the service because it was the first time we had seen them since he had confessed to adultery and resigned as president of a Christian organization. He had withdrawn from the ministry for several years and accepted counseling from older, respected pastors. We greeted each other warmly and chatted for a few minutes. It was quite clear that his congregation appreciated his ministry. Why? Because this man had faced his sin, confessed it to God and his peers, accepted God's forgiveness, and made a fresh start. He had followed in the footsteps of King David.

1. When people are caught cheating, lying, defrauding, or stealing materials from their company, what are their most common responses?

✠ READ 2 SAMUEL II:1-27.

- ✠ 2. Trace the steps in David's temptation and the choices he made that compounded his sin and guilt.

3. In what ways were other people affected by David's sin?

Bathsheba

the messengers

Uriah

Joab

other soldiers

God

- ✠ 4. How have ease or self-confidence made you vulnerable to temptation like David?

READ 2 SAMUEL 12:1-14.

5. In what sense was Nathan a messenger of God's mercy as well as God's judgment?

6. What were David's options after Nathan confronted him?

Why is David's confession in verse 13 the only proper response, or hope, when you face your own guilt?

7. Forgiveness wipes out the guilt but not the consequences of sinful choices. What consequences did David's sin bring to himself, his family, and the nation (verses 10-14)?

READ PSALM 51.

8. David wrote this psalm after Nathan confronted him about his sin. What specific things did David ask God to do for him (verses 1-12)?

What do David's requests reveal about sin's effect on us?

9. When someone is caught in a wrongful act, a common response is to blame others or to blame circumstances. How does David resist these temptations to blame (verses 3-6)?
10. What kind of relationship does David long for with God that goes beyond just having a clean slate (verses 10-12)?

Which of these requests most fits your needs right now?

11. Of all the things David could have done to thank God for restoring him, why are a broken spirit and a contrite heart the appropriate sacrifices to offer (verses 13-17)?

12. What kind of “sacrifices,” other than a broken spirit and a contrite heart, have you tried to offer God to prove you’re sorry?
13. In the Old Testament God often refers to “my servant David,” not to “the murderer and adulterer David.” The way David faced his sin and guilt freed him to enjoy God’s forgiveness and to serve God well. The New Testament instructs us how to follow David’s example: “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives” (1 John 1:8-10). What did you learn from this study about how to grow spiritually through facing your sin and guilt?

Pray the Bible into Life

- Thank God that he is not surprised or shocked by what he sees in your heart, although some of it shocks you.
- Ask God to help you confess your sin and guilt honestly, instead of denying or blaming others.
- Pray those requests in Psalm 51 that express what you want God to do for you.