

Life Lessons from Ancient Israel

Part 5: Recovery from Failure

*"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples:
and they are written for our admonition" (1 Cor. 10:11)*

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Feb. 10th

Reflection: The choices of the people of Ancient Israel serve as a type of allegory.

- Egypt represents the power and pull of the World ruled by *"the god of this world"*. 2 Cor 4:4
- Passover reveals the price required to redeem us from Satan's Power. Col. 1:13,14
- Red sea symbolizes a type of *Baptism* (1 Cor 10:1-2) representing a commitment to Leave "Egypt" (the world) behind and Learn to follow God by faith.
- Sinai (the Law) represents "Discipleship". At Sinai we learn about: God's Holy standard; Our own sinfulness ; Our need for forgiveness through atonement; God's plan for a partnership with us and the power and pull of the world to cause us to back slide as well as the path back to restoration and fellowship with God

What we do after failure Is critical!

We naturally tend to Blame (penalize others); Balance or rationalize our sin, and/or Belittle or minimize it. When we fall into this pattern, we fail to recognize and effectively respond to the real "root" issues or attitudes that produced our sin. **The first step on the path of redemption is:**

1. Clarity: (Requires honest Reflection)

Since "love is blind" and we love ourselves, we seldom see ourselves accurately! (Jer 17:9)

This is particularly true under pressure! Heb. 3:13 *"Consider one another to provoke to love.."*

He 3:13 *"exhort one another daily, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."*

Ps 51:6 *"thou desirest truth in the inward parts"* What's the truth about this situation?

A. The People were Rebellious. Deut. 9:24 *"Ye have been rebellious against the LORD"*

This gave Satan "ground" to work with. 1 Sam 15:23 *"Rebellion is as ... the sin of witchcraft"*

B. Moses was overwhelmed (Logistical, Leadership, and loving problems) Ex 33:12; Nu. 11:11

C. God was angry! Ex. 32:35; 33:2,3 *"I will not go up in the midst of thee; lest I consume thee ..."*

Sin always brings separation! Is 59; Ro. 6:23

Genuine Clarity should produce:

2. Conviction: (Recognition ➔ *Remorse*)

A. God challenged them to Mourn! Ex 33:4-6 Their mourning mattered! Jms 4:7-10

B. Mourning involves Recognizing:

1) The true *nature* of our sin. 32:31 *"committed a great sin"* (Huge Offence!) Ro 7:12-13

2) The actual cause and *effect* of our sin. Ex 32:9 *"stiff-necked people"* heart hearted!

Genuine Remorse should lead to:

3. Confession and *Repentance* 2 Cor. 7:10 *"Godly sorrow worketh repentance"*

Metan'oia: compunction (sorrow) producing *reversal* From metanoe'o: think differently, reconsider.

To recover from back sliding we must: Reflect on God's Perspective (Clarity); Recognize the justice of God's judgment (Conviction; and Repent (completely) and confess our sin.

*Instead of blaming, balancing, and belittling my sin I "agree with God" about it. 1 Jn 1:9
homologe'o: say the same thing.*

A. God expected them, not just to mourn, but to move! (Come to Him. Ex. 33:7,8)

"Pitched the tabernacle ... afar off... Everyone which sought the LORD went out unto the tabernacle ..."

- 1) Most stayed in their tent "afar off" leaving their infection (sin) unclear and uncleansed, leading to the spread of the cancer and confusion.
- 2) Those that sought God in honest Reflection, Recognition, & Repentance Found:

Honest Confession and Repentance will lead to:

4. Cleansing and Restoration

A. Only Two are mentioned! Ex. 33:9-11

- 1) Moses: 9-11 *"Moses entered into the tabernacle, ... And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaks unto his friend."*
- 2) Joshua: vs 11 *"but his servant Joshua, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle."*

B. Moses moved intentionally toward God. Ex. 32:31,32;

- 1) He prayed for the people (32:31,32) with:

a) Clarity: Vs 31 *"this people have sinned a great sin"*

b) Compassion: Vs 32 *"if thou wilt forgive their sin... and if not, blot me... out of thy book"*

- 2) He prayed for himself (33:12-18) for:

a) Wisdom *"Show me now thy way"* 13

b) Intimacy *"that I may know thee"* 13

c) Grace *"that I may find grace..."* 13

In verse 3 God said: *"I will not go up in the midst of thee ... lest I consume thee..."*

In verse 12,13 Moses Prayed for the people and himself and then in verse 14 God answered:

"My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."

James 5:16 *"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."*

Conclusion:

Most were content to "worshipped afar off" where it was safe and familiar (Vs 7,10) and so remained fundamentally unchanged.

Moses and Joshua moved as close to God as humanly possible... And it changed them!

Ex 34:29-30 *"when Moses came down ... Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone... And when Aaron and all ... Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him."*

Paul (God) uses this event to reveal the process of personal change! 2 Cor 3:18

"But we, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

Application:

Deut 30:19 *"I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life"*

➤ **Most blamed, balanced & belittled their sin,**

producing the predicable results God foretold.

➤ **Some (Moses, Joshua) chose to reflect, recognize and repent;**

Producing the restoration and "life" God promised.