

# FREEDOM *after* FAILURE



LESSONS FROM A BROKEN KING



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*week one*

# Caution: Danger Ahead

## *Freedom After Failure: Lessons from a Broken King*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025

### **David's Rise:**

(1 Samuel 16 - 2 Samuel 10)  
Eager Holy Warrior  
Marries Honorably  
Protects Saul's Life  
Decisive  
Prayers Effective  
Fearless When Outnumbered  
Attracts Thousands of Followers

Source: *ESV Study Bible*

### **David's Fall:**

(2 Samuel 11-20)  
Remains in Palace  
Adultery with Bathsheba  
Plots Uriah's Death  
Indecisive  
Prayers Ineffective  
Fearfully Takes a Census  
Loses Thousands of Followers

### **Note:**

**We make small \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_**

*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.*  
2 Samuel 11:1 (NIV)

*When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*  
James 1:13-15 (NIV)

**Our \_\_\_\_\_ remain until there is \_\_\_\_\_**

*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, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him,*

*and he slept with her. (She had purified herself from her uncleanness.)  
Then she went back home. The woman conceived and sent  
word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."  
2 Samuel 11:2-5 (NIV)*

"Sin doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ what's in \_\_\_\_\_ of you,  
it \_\_\_\_\_ everything it \_\_\_\_\_."

— Matt Chandler

**We begin to \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_**

*So David sent this word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite."  
And Joab sent him to David.  
2 Samuel 11:6 (NIV)*

**Note:**

Examples?

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**Our \_\_\_\_\_ drives our \_\_\_\_\_**

*In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah.  
2 Samuel 11:14 (NIV)*

*There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.  
Proverbs 14:12 (NIV)*

"Sin will take you \_\_\_\_\_ than you want to \_\_\_\_\_, keep you  
\_\_\_\_\_ than you want to \_\_\_\_\_, and most cost you  
\_\_\_\_\_ than you want to \_\_\_\_\_."

— Francis Chan

**We find ourselves \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_**

*When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the LORD.*

2 Samuel 11:26-27 (NIV)

"The greatest of all insights is that we cannot \_\_\_\_\_  
what we do not \_\_\_\_\_."

— John Maxwell

# Week One: Reflection

## *Freedom After Failure: Lessons from a Broken King*

### **R – Revelation**

*What does the passage we read this Sunday say? Ask yourself “What?”*

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### **E – Explain**

*What does it mean to your life? Ask yourself “So what?”*

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### **A – Apply**

*So what do you do? Ask yourself, “Now What?”*

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### **P – Pray**

*Pray that God will strengthen you to live in His truth He has taught you this week.*

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# Week One: Devotion

## *Freedom After Failure: Lessons from a Broken King*

### Meditation

Meditation is a biblical practice. God commands his people to meditate. When Joshua was about to take the place of Moses and lead God's people, God told Joshua "...you shall meditate on [God's Word] day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it." (Joshua 1:8 ESV)

Meditation is simply directing your mind to think about God, to concentrate on God and the things of God. Throughout Scripture, God's people meditated by setting their minds on...

- His mighty words
- His unfailing love
- His precepts
- His promises

When we meditate we focus on God and His word so we are able to listen well and hear God correctly.

*Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. <sup>2</sup> Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.*

*<sup>3</sup> For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.*

*<sup>4</sup> And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.*

Colossians 3:1-4 (NLT)

### How to Meditate...

1. Find a quiet place.
2. Try to quiet your soul.
3. Pick a passage of Scripture.



4. Slowly read through the passage at least three times.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and help you hear what God is trying to say to you through the passage. Allow the Holy Spirit to show you how this passage applies to your life.
6. Leave some space to journal what you hear.

## **Week One: Preparation**

### ***Freedom After Failure: Lessons from a Broken King***

To prepare for Sunday's message, pray through these verses from Psalm 51...

*<sup>7</sup> Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.*

*<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.*

*<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquity.*

Ask God to...

- Help you prepare to hear His Word proclaimed on Sunday
- Soften your heart to receive instruction
- Remove any obstacles and distractions that might keep you from hearing from Him
- Cleanse you and make you pure
- Fill you with joy and gladness

*week two*

# Own It!

## Freedom After Failure: Lessons from a Broken King

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025

**Be highly aware of our \_\_\_\_\_**

- By welcoming \_\_\_\_\_

*The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, "There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.*

2 Samuel 12:1-3 (NIV)

### **Note:**

*As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.*  
Proverbs 27:17 (NIV)

*Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!*  
Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NIV)

- By recognizing God's \_\_\_\_\_

*"Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him."*

2 Samuel 12:4 (NIV)

**Start with \_\_\_\_\_ !**

*David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to*

*die! He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity."*

2 Samuel 12:5-6 (NIV)

## How do we do this?

*But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*

John 14:25-26 (NIV)

*"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

Matthew 7:3-5 (NIV)

## Accept \_\_\_\_\_ Responsibility

- Notice What God Does

*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. 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.*

2 Samuel 12:7-8 (NIV)

1. God gives us His \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_
2. God gives us His \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_
3. God gives us His \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_
4. God gives us His \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_

- Notice What We Do

*Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.*  
2 Samuel 12:9 (NIV)

“despise” –

*My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man’s whole body.*  
Proverbs 4:20-22 (NIV)

“Grace isn’t \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ in sin, it’s the \_\_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_ it and \_\_\_\_\_ it.”

— Paul Tripp

**Accept the \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_**

*Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’*  
*“This is what the LORD says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’”* Then David said to Nathan, *“I have sinned against the LORD.”* Nathan replied, *“The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. But because by doing this you have made the enemies of the LORD show utter contempt, the son born to you will die.”*  
2 Samuel 12:10-14 (NIV)

# Reflection: Week Two

## *Freedom After Failure: Lessons from a Broken King*

### **R – Revelation**

*What does the passage we read this Sunday say? Ask yourself “What?”*

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### **E – Explain**

*What does it mean to your life? Ask yourself “So what?”*

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### **A – Apply**

*So what do you do? Ask yourself, “Now What?”*

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### **P – Pray**

*Pray that God will strengthen you to live in His truth He has taught you this week.*

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## **Week Two: Devotion**

### ***Freedom After Failure: Lessons from a Broken King***

#### **Accountability**

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV)

God designed us to live in relationships. We need each other. We cannot live the way Jesus expects us to without others.

We all have blind spots in our lives.

- Wrong actions that we justify
- Bad attitudes that hurt our relationships
- Thought patterns that have drifted off track
- Small compromises that we ignore

We all need someone to hold us accountable. An accountability partner speaks truth into our lives without beating us up, helps us stay on track as we grow in our faith, encourages us when we want to quit, and reminds us of biblical principles.

An accountability relationship provides us with a safe place to struggle and confess our sins.

Tips for finding an accountability relationship...

1. Ask God to help you find the right person to hold you accountable.



2. Look for a person who...
  - a. Is mature in their faith
  - b. Understands biblical principles
  - c. Will pray for you
  - d. Is objective
  - e. Wants you to grow in your faith
  - f. Is available
  - g. Is trustworthy
  - h. Is the same gender as you
3. Ask the person if they will be your accountability partner
4. Establish a routine meeting time

## **Week Two: Preparation**

### ***Freedom After Failure: Lessons from a Broken King***

To prepare for Sunday's message, pray through these verses from Psalm 51...

*<sup>10</sup> Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

*<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.*

Invite the Holy Spirit to...

- Fill the sanctuary this Sunday
- Remind us of what Jesus commanded us to do and help us to obey
- Convict us of our sin
- Help us live pure
- Help us stay faithful

*week three*

# Revelation 19

Nate Hilgenkamp

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_ **is coming to claim his** \_\_\_\_\_

*<sup>17</sup> And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, <sup>18</sup> so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and the mighty, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small." <sup>19</sup> Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. <sup>20</sup> But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. <sup>21</sup> The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.*

Revelation 19:17-21 (NIV)

\_\_\_\_\_ **and his army will** \_\_\_\_\_

- While it's good news for us that Jesus wins, there is an enemy that's going to do all he can to get you to lose with him.

\_\_\_\_\_ **is to get ready for the** \_\_\_\_\_

*Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.*

Revelation 19:7 (NIV)

*This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.*

Romans 3:22 (NIV)

\_\_\_\_\_ is coming to claim his \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ and his army will \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
is to get ready for the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Reflection: Week Three**  
*Revelation 19*  
*Nate Hilgenkamp*

**R – Revelation**

*What does the passage we read this Sunday say? Ask yourself “What?”*

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**E – Explain**

*What does it mean to your life? Ask yourself “So what?”*

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**A – Apply**

*So what do you do? Ask yourself, “Now What?”*

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**P – Pray**

*Pray that God will strengthen you to live in His truth He has taught you this week.*

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## **Week Three: Devotion**

### *Freedom After Failure: Lessons from a Broken King*

#### **Victory in Jesus**

**Scripture Reading:** Revelation 19:11-16

In Revelation 19, we are given a breathtaking glimpse of Jesus as the triumphant King. The chapter describes a vision of heaven opened, revealing Jesus riding on a white horse, His name “Faithful and True,” and with justice, He judges and makes war. He wears many crowns, and His robe is dipped in blood—a vivid picture of His sacrifice and victory over sin and death. The armies of heaven follow Him, clothed in white linen, symbolizing the purity and righteousness that He alone provides to His people. Ultimately, the passage proclaims that Jesus is the “King of kings and Lord of lords,” whose reign is unstoppable and eternal.

This powerful imagery reassures us that no matter how overwhelming life’s battles may seem, the ultimate victory belongs to Jesus. As believers, we share in this victory. Romans 8:37 reminds us that we are “more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” This truth empowers us to stand firm in our faith, knowing that the same Jesus who conquered death is leading us in triumph.

Victory in Jesus is not just about future glory; it is a present reality. Through His death and resurrection, we are set free from the power of sin and given the Holy Spirit to guide and empower us daily. Our struggles and challenges may persist, but they do not define us. Instead, we are defined by the victory Jesus has already won on our behalf.

When you face difficulties, remember the picture painted in Revelation 19. Jesus is not a distant Savior; He is a conquering King who fights for you and has already secured your eternal destiny. His victory ensures that every tear will be wiped away, every injustice will be made right, and every sorrow will be turned to joy. We fight from a place of victory, not for it.

As you reflect on this passage, consider how the victory of Jesus transforms your perspective on life's challenges. Are there areas where fear or doubt have crept in? Surrender them to the One who is "Faithful and True." Let the assurance of His triumph fill you with hope, courage, and peace.

**Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, we praise You as the victorious King of kings and Lord of lords. Thank You for the victory You secured through Your death and resurrection. Help us to live in the confidence of that victory, trusting You in every battle we face. Strengthen our faith and fill us with Your peace, knowing that we are more than conquerors through You. Amen.

**Reflection Questions:**

1. How does the image of Jesus as the triumphant King in Revelation 19 encourage you in your daily walk?
2. What battles are you facing right now that you need to surrender to Jesus?
3. How can you live more fully in the victory that Jesus has already won for you?



## **Week Three: Preparation**

### ***Freedom After Failure: Lessons from a Broken King***

To prepare for Sunday's message, pray through these verses from Psalm 51...

*<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*

Pray to God...

- Help me remember the joy of when I first believed
- Help me obey Your Word
- Help me persevere when I want to quit

*week four*

# Think About It

## Freedom After Failure: Lessons from a Broken King

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025

**Forgiveness is \_\_\_\_\_, consequences \_\_\_\_\_**

*Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. <sup>14</sup> But because by doing this you have made the enemies of the LORD show utter contempt, the son born to you will die."*  
2 Samuel 12:13–14 (NIV)

*On the seventh day the child died. David's servants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they thought, "While the child was still living, we spoke to David but he would not listen to us. How can we tell him the child is dead? He may do something desperate."*  
2 Samuel 12:18 (NIV)

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*  
1 John 1:9 (NIV)

**Today's \_\_\_\_\_... tomorrow's \_\_\_\_\_**

*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, <sup>3</sup> and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" <sup>4</sup> Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her.*  
2 Samuel 11:2-4 (NIV)

*In the course of time, Amnon son of David fell in love with Tamar, the beautiful sister of Absalom son of David.*  
2 Samuel 13:1 (NIV)

*But he refused to listen to her, and since he was stronger than she, he raped her.*  
2 Samuel 13:14 (NIV)

**Our \_\_\_\_\_ do \_\_\_\_\_ others**

*Her brother Absalom said to her, "Has that Amnon, your brother, been with you? Be quiet now, my sister; he is your brother. Don't take this thing to heart." And Tamar lived in her brother Absalom's house, a desolate woman.*  
2 Samuel 13:20 (NIV)

*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*  
Galatians 6:7-8 (NIV)

- Reap \_\_\_\_\_ you sow

"The harvest is a reflection of the \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ what you want to \_\_\_\_\_."

— Priscilla Shirer

- Reap \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ you sow

"\_\_\_\_\_ doesn't just affect \_\_\_\_\_; it leaves a \_\_\_\_\_  
that others must \_\_\_\_\_."

— Craig Groeschel

- Reap \_\_\_\_\_ you sow

"Don't expect a crop of \_\_\_\_\_ if you're planting  
seeds of \_\_\_\_\_."

— Max Lucado

**Note:**

*When King David heard all this, he was furious. Absalom never said a word to Amnon, either good or bad; he hated Amnon because he had disgraced his sister Tamar.*

2 Samuel 13:21-22 (NIV)

"\_\_\_\_\_ is the father of \_\_\_\_\_."

— Charles Stanley

**God's \_\_\_\_\_ remains \_\_\_\_\_**

*So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof, and he lay with his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.*

2 Samuel 16:22 (NIV)

*The king was shaken. He went up to the room over the gateway and wept. As he went, he said: "O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you—O Absalom, my son, my son!"*

2 Samuel 18:33 (NIV)

# Reflection: Week Four

## *Freedom After Failure: Lessons from a Broken King*

### **R – Revelation**

*What does the passage we read this Sunday say? Ask yourself “What?”*

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### **E – Explain**

*What does it mean to your life? Ask yourself “So what?”*

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### **A – Apply**

*So what do you do? Ask yourself, “Now What?”*

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### **P – Pray**

*Pray that God will strengthen you to live in His truth He has taught you this week.*

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## **Week Four: Devotion**

### *Freedom After Failure: Lessons from a Broken King*

#### **Reaping and Sowing Through Reading God's Word**

**Scripture Reading:** Galatians 6:7-8; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Shortcuts. On the highway of life, sometimes it's tempting to take them. But in our spiritual lives, sometimes shortcuts lead to shortcomings.

While the destination is important, the journey is what God uses to make us more like Him. Taking shortcuts often represents a desire to achieve spiritual growth quickly and easily with minimal effort. It may be linked to impatience, pride, or a lack of faith in the process itself. The result can be a spirituality without life transformation.

Spending time in God's Word consistently is one of the best ways to grow spiritually over the course of your life. Why is that?

First, what you read makes a difference in your life. The Bible shows us God's character and reveals who He is. In His Word, we see that He is holy, just, unchanging, gracious, faithful, and loving. Second, according to 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Scripture teaches us, guides us, corrects us, and trains us in righteousness. These things lead to wholeness and our being equipped for whatever life may bring. Third, spending consistent time in the Bible helps daily reorient our lives toward God so that we grow in spiritual maturity.

Reading Scripture is a primary spiritual discipline that pays huge dividends. Traveling the road of life with Jesus as our guide while bypassing tempting shortcuts will deepen our dependence on Him and show us both His heart and His ways. If you want to reap a spiritual harvest in your life, sow it with God's Word consistently!

#### **Prayer:**

Father, we acknowledge you as the sovereign Lord over all creation. Thank you for revealing Yourself to us in Your Word. Draw us to You and strengthen our desire to know You more deeply as we read

Scripture so that we may love You more faithfully and serve You more effectively. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

**Reflection Questions:**

1. What benefits do you see in continually reading God's Word?
2. How can you establish a pattern of consistent Bible reading?  
Be specific.
3. Can you begin today?



## **Week Four: Preparation**

### ***Freedom After Failure: Lessons from a Broken King***

To prepare for Sunday's message, pray through these verses from Psalm 51...

- <sup>13</sup> *Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
so that sinners will turn back to you.*
- <sup>14</sup> *Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,  
you who are God my Savior,  
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.*

Pray...

- Pray for someone who needs to hear and respond to the Good News
- Pray that someone will move closer to Jesus during the service this Sunday
- Thank God for delivering you from sin
- Pray that people will respond to God by singing of His greatness and righteousness

*week five*

# Cleansing of God

## *Freedom After Failure: Lessons from a Broken King*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025

*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... then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her.*

2 Samuel 11:2-4 (NIV)

*Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says... and if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes?"*

2 Samuel 12:7-9 (NIV)

R \_\_\_\_\_

• M \_\_\_\_\_

"mercy" =

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.*

Psalm 51:1 (NIV)

Test:

Have I \_\_\_\_\_ God's \_\_\_\_\_?

Have I \_\_\_\_\_ God's \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_?

"In His \_\_\_\_\_, God chooses to see us through the lens of \_\_\_\_\_ rather than the lens of \_\_\_\_\_."

— Tim Keller

- C \_\_\_\_\_

"cleansing" =

*Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*  
Psalm 51:2 (NIV)

C \_\_\_\_\_

- A \_\_\_\_\_

*For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 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. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*  
Psalm 51:3-5 (NIV)

Notice:

Caution:

"True \_\_\_\_\_ begins when  
\_\_\_\_\_ ends."

— Tim Keller

*Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.*  
Hebrews 3:15 (NIV)

- U \_\_\_\_\_

*Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.*  
Psalm 51:6 (NIV)

God's Goal?

## Forgiven and Free

### What does God do with our sin?

S\_\_\_\_\_ us

*He has removed our sins as far away from us as the east is from the west.*  
Psalm 103:12 (TLB)

R\_\_\_\_\_ us

*“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”*  
Jeremiah 31:34 (NIV)

C\_\_\_\_\_ us

*“Come now, let us reason together,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow...”*  
Isaiah 1:18 (NIV)

C\_\_\_\_\_ us

*Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God.*  
Hebrews 9:14 (NLT)

“Mercy is God’s \_\_\_\_\_ that His \_\_\_\_\_ is greater than  
our \_\_\_\_\_.”

— Max Lucado

# Reflection: Week Five

## *Freedom After Failure: Lessons from a Broken King*

### **R – Revelation**

*What does the passage we read this Sunday say? Ask yourself “What?”*

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### **E – Explain**

*What does it mean to your life? Ask yourself “So what?”*

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### **A – Apply**

*So what do you do? Ask yourself, “Now What?”*

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### **P – Pray**

*Pray that God will strengthen you to live in His truth He has taught you this week.*

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## **Week Five: Devotion**

### ***Freedom After Failure: Lessons from a Broken King***

#### **Confession**

In 1 John 1:8 and 9, John says,

*<sup>8</sup> If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

All of us have sin and that sin needs to be dealt with. Today we are going to take some time to confess our sin to God.

Read through these prompts to help you recognize and acknowledge your sin...

- Desires of the flesh - sensual things that God might say are unhealthy words, unhealthy pictures, unhealthy music, etc.
- Desires of the eyes - material things that God would say lead you to covet what others have, long for more than you have, or make you unsatisfied with what you have
- Pride of life - attitudes in God's sight such as wanting recognition or fame; thinking more highly of yourself than appropriate so that you are above serving others; taking credit for what God has done in your life; or longing to be looked at, admired, thought highly of by others, etc.

Confession—the repentant act of acknowledging one's sins to God with the belief that who Jesus is and what He did is sufficient for forgiveness.

Take some time this week to pray through and work through the prayer below...

*Most merciful GOD, I confess that I have sinned against YOU in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done, and by what I have left undone. I have not loved YOU with MY whole heart; I have not loved*

*my neighbors as myself. I am truly sorry and I humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on me and forgive me; that I may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

#### How to...

- Schedule at least 15 minutes to connect with God.
- Remove all distractions. Turn off your phone. Go to a quiet place.
- Pray the prayer above out loud.
- Then slowly go through it as many times as you need to—internalizing the words.
- As the Holy Spirit brings specific sins to your mind, confess them to Him.
- Imagine God wrapping His arms around you, looking you in the eyes, and saying, "You are forgiven."
- Close your time with God by saying a prayer of thanksgiving for His grace and forgiveness.



## **Week Five: Preparation**

### ***Freedom After Failure: Lessons from a Broken King***

To prepare for Sunday's message, pray through these verses from Psalm 51...

*<sup>15</sup> Open my lips, Lord,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.  
<sup>16</sup> You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;  
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.*

- Pray that you will declare praise to God with your words, your attitude, and your actions.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help someone declare that Jesus is Lord and believe that Jesus was raised from the dead.

*week six*

# Restoration

## *Freedom After Failure: Lessons from a Broken King*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025

*Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom  
in the inmost place.*

Psalm 51:6 (NIV)

- Bathsheba
- Adultery
- Lying
- Murder
- Lack of Integrity
- Greed

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 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. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*

Psalm 51:1-5 (NIV)

Prayer for a \_\_\_\_\_

*Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will  
be whiter than snow.*

Psalm 51:7 (NIV)

“hyssop” =

**Note:** The \_\_\_\_\_ tells us David deserved \_\_\_\_\_

God’s \_\_\_\_\_ shows us that David received forgiveness

• To \_\_\_\_\_

• To \_\_\_\_\_

*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. 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. Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.*

2 Samuel 12:7-10 (NIV)

Prayer for \_\_\_\_\_

*Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.*

Psalm 51:8 (NIV)

*A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.*

Proverbs 17:22 (NIV)

Prayer for \_\_\_\_\_

*Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.*

Psalm 51:9 (NIV)

"hide" =

"blot" =

Prayer for complete \_\_\_\_\_

*Create in me a pure heart, O God and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

Psalm 51:10 (NIV)

"God transforms g\_\_\_\_\_ into g\_\_\_\_\_, s\_\_\_\_\_ into  
s\_\_\_\_\_, and p\_\_\_\_\_ into p\_\_\_\_\_."

—Lisa Bevere

Prayer for \_\_\_\_\_

*Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.*  
Psalm 51:11 (NIV)

*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.*  
1 Samuel 16:13 (NIV)

*"If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father,  
and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit  
of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor  
knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."*  
John 14:15-17 (NIV)

Prayer for \_\_\_\_\_

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation...*  
Psalm 51:12a (NIV)

"Repentance opens the door to God's forgiveness, but His  
grace walks us through it."

— Charles Stanley

Prayer for \_\_\_\_\_

*...and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*  
Psalm 51:12b (NIV)

*Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan  
replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.  
But because by doing this you have made the enemies of the LORD*

*show utter contempt, the son born to you will die.” After Nathan had gone home, the LORD struck the child that Uriah’s wife had borne to David, and he became ill. On the seventh day the child died.*

2 Samuel 12:13-15, 18 (NIV)

“Great \_\_\_\_\_ calls for great \_\_\_\_\_  
from a great \_\_\_\_\_.”

# Reflection: Week Six

## *Freedom After Failure: Lessons from a Broken King*

### **R – Revelation**

*What does the passage we read this Sunday say? Ask yourself “What?”*

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### **E – Explain**

*What does it mean to your life? Ask yourself “So what?”*

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### **A – Apply**

*So what do you do? Ask yourself, “Now What?”*

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### **P – Pray**

*Pray that God will strengthen you to live in His truth He has taught you this week.*

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## **Week Six: Devotion**

### ***Freedom After Failure: Lessons from a Broken King***

#### **Thanksgiving**

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 17:11-19

In Jesus' days, leprosy was a highly contagious skin disease. The symptoms of the disease could include white patches and oozing sores. It could also result in the loss of one's fingers and toes. Leprosy was painful.

Religiously, lepers were considered unclean. They could not go to the temple. Lepers could not participate in the religious traditions of the people.

In addition to the physical marks and the religious restrictions, a leper was considered a social outcast. When someone had leprosy they had to live isolated from their friends and family. They could not be around healthy people.

No handshakes.  
No high-fives.  
No hugs.

**NO PHYSICAL CONTACT.**

Since they could contaminate others, lepers had to declare their uncleanliness (Leviticus 13:45), "I am unclean! I am unclean! Don't come any closer. I am UNCLEAN!"

In Luke 17, the lepers cry out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." The cry was full of desperation, loneliness, hurt, and longing.

Jesus, who was on his way to Jerusalem to die on the cross for the sins of the world, slowed down to show compassion to these ten lepers. He displayed mercy by healing them physically which would permit them to come out of isolation, to reconnect with family and the faith community. Jesus met their need.



Luke, in verses 15 and 16, describes what happened after the ten lepers were healed, "Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks."

One healed leper returned to praise God. One out of the ten went back to thank Jesus for healing. One out of ten. One!

As he did with the lepers, Jesus shows us compassion and meets our need. Our need is bigger than healing from a skin disease. We are contaminated by sin. We are broken. We are depraved. Jesus took our sin by dying on the cross in our place to rescue us from our sin and restore us to God.

We owe Jesus our praise.

We owe Jesus our gratitude.

We should all fall at the feet of Jesus and thank Him because He has healed us from our sin.

### **Prayer:**

Jesus, I praise You! Thank You for Your sacrifice. Thank You for dying on the cross to pay off my sin debt. I am so sorry! Jesus, Savior, thank You for having mercy on me. Thank You for your grace. Thank You for your forgiveness. Thank You! There is no one. There is no thing like You. I worship You today!

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. Are you more like the nine lepers that did not thank God or like the one that went back to thank Jesus for what He had done for them?
2. What words would you say to Jesus right now to thank Him for your forgiveness and salvation?

## **Week Six: Preparation**

### ***Freedom After Failure: Lessons from a Broken King***

To prepare for Sunday's message, pray through these verses from Psalm 51...

*<sup>17</sup> My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart  
you, God, will not despise.*

Pray...

Father, I come to You, broken and in need of your restoration. Deliver me. Cleanse me. Make me whole. Restore me.

Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross in my place.

Holy Spirit, sustain me and help me to obey the teachings of Jesus. Use me to help those who are far from You hear about the Good News.

God, thank You for salvation, grace, forgiveness. Thank You for being present. I praise You for who You are and what You have done.



First Baptist  
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