

Life Lessons from Ancient Israel

Part 4: 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. 3rd

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”. A commitment to a relationship with God through His word. 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.

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.

This results in incomplete repentance (sorrow at the consequences of my sin). This leaves some of the “cancer” untouched which later grows back more aggressively.

What we really need to seek after our sin is: Clarity (Reflect on the truth); Conviction (Recognize our role in it); Confession (Repent of our sin) and then seek God’s Cleansing (Restoration through His Grace). Let’s examine this process:

1. Clarity: (reflect on what really happened)

Emotions cloud our reasoning! Jer 17:9; Jn 8:31,32 *“the truth shall make you free.”* (Eph. 4:15)

What was the truth of this situation?

A. The People were *rebellious*. Ex. 32:31-34 *“sinned a great sin...”* (Huge Offence!)

1) This (and every) rebellion gives Satan ground. 1 Sam 15:23

“rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, (merî: which comes from marah: bitterness!)

and stubbornness (pāšar: means to peck at and dull) is as iniquity and idolatry.”

2) This had been their past pattern. (Ex. 5:21; Ex. 14:11-12; Ex. 15:24; Ex. 16:2; Ex. 17:2)

3) This pattern would continue! > 20 times (during the wilderness journey)

they murmured and turned on Moses.

“Murmur” (loon) figuratively: to be obstinate / complain. Literally: It means to **STOP!**

Satan delights to distract us from where God is trying to take us!

40 years later Moses said in Deut. 9:24 *“Ye have been rebellious from the day that I knew you.”*

Unless we apply this process, our own “besetting sins” (Heb. 12:1) will continue to plague us.

B. Moses was *overwhelmed*.

➤ He had the privilege of following God through the desert. (Difficult, but do-able.)

➤ He had the responsibility of leading millions of others through the desert.

This was entirely beyond him!

1) He had Logistical problems (*Feeding, caring for millions in the dessert for 40 years*)

2) He had Leadership Problems. *Where were the 73 leaders from Ex. 24? Ex 33:12 "thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me."*

3) He had "Loving" problems. Ex. 32:9,10.

a) God tested Moses' love for the people. Ex. 32:31,32

(It's usually easier to quit and start over than to work with broken people.)

b) Sin always brings suffering. The more you love people, the more their sin brings suffering to your heart! (Is. 53:4) *"he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows"* (See Phil. 3:10,11)

C. God was angry! Ex. 32:35 *"...I will visit their sin upon them. And the LORD plagued the people"*

1) He Separated from the people. Ex. 33:2,3 Sin always brings separation! Is 59

Genuine Clarity should produce:

2. Conviction: (Recognition and Remorse)

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

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

➤ Recognition without repentance produces Guilt and shame.

➤ Recognition with repentance results in God's grace!

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

"Pitched the tabernacle without the camp, afar off... Everyone which sought the LORD went out unto the tabernacle ... which was without the camp"

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 Restoration! (Ps 23:3; Ps 51)

Reflection:

Which most accurately describes your response to your sin?

➤ Blame (Penalize), Balance (Rationalize), Belittle (Minimize)

Where will this path lead you?

➤ Reflection (Clarity), Recognition (Conviction), Repentance (Confession)

Leading to Restoration of your relationship with God.

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

Most stayed with the first pattern (*blame, balance, belittle their sin*) producing the predicable results God foretold.

Some (few) chose to reflect, recognize and repent of their sin, Producing the restoration and "life" God promised.

What will you choose?