



Making Sense of Life When Life Doesn't Make Sense

Sermon 6

What If It's My Fault?

Psalm 51

In the DVD study, *"Crisis101: Making Sense of Life When Life Doesn't Make Sense,"* and in his excellent book, The Red Sea Rules, Dr. Robert Morgan asks the question, "What if it's my fault?"

The context of this question is how does one deal with a crisis that has arisen in his or her life due to a failure on his life. I suppose most, if not all of us, have had a similar dilemma in our own lives.

For example:

Someone is surprised to see a car pulling up behind them with red and blue lights flashing and the siren screaming. Out steps an officer who asks to see your driver's license and insurance card, and then writes some notes on a little pad, pulls off the sheet of paper and gives you a citation for speeding. The officer explains you were doing 65 mph in a 50 mph zone. And, no matter you may say in your defense, you were still breaking the law, and you have to confess, "It's My Fault."

Or someone realizes April 15, tax filing day, is rapidly approaching. They realize they did not get all the receipts to substantiate their expenses, but they fudge a little and turn in the form anyway. Later they get a letter stating they are being audited by the IRS... and eventually they have to say the numbers they turned in were wrong and "It's My Fault."

Or a high school student decided to spend more time playing around and goofing off rather than studying, and then the big test day comes. Under pressure to make a passing grade, that student decides to look over and copy some answers off the test paper of a really smart kid sitting next to him. The teacher sees what is going on and asks the cheating student to stay after class for a little chat. There is nothing that student can say other than, I blew it; "It's My Fault."

In each of these three scenarios the people who made the mistake and did wrong are faced with a crisis and they must ultimately admit "It's My Fault."

Biblical Context: 2 Samuel 11 & 12

Go back with me to Israel over 3000 years ago. There we see a great example of an individual who experienced a huge crisis, and it was totally his fault. God had given the children of Israel a king named Saul. He reigned for 40 years, and after his reign was over, God raised up David to be the next king. David was a man, whom the Bible calls "a man after God's own heart." He was a great king...at least for a while. Then, upon a day, when his army was out to battle, David decided to stay home in his palace.

While in the palace, he went out one evening to look over the city; in doing so, noticed a young woman on a balcony below who was bathing. He had one of his servants to go and bring her to him. David then committed adultery with Bathsheba, this beautiful young woman. When Bathsheba realized she was pregnant, David was faced with a huge crisis. Instead of repenting and asking for forgiveness from God, from Bathsheba and her husband, he chose to go another route. He sent word to Joab, the field commander, to send Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, back home from the battle lines. David met with Uriah, got an update on how the war was going, and then sent him home to spend the night with his wife, Bathsheba. David no doubt figured that if his plan worked, the Uriah would think the child that Bathsheba was to have would be his, and that David would be off the hook. Uriah, instead, being a loyal soldier, decided it was not right that he would go and sleep with his wife while the ark and hundreds of his fellow soldiers were out fighting the enemy. So, he chose to sleep outside and away from his wife. When David realized what Uriah had done, he called him to the palace. He tried to get him drunk so he would then go sleep with his wife, but Uriah again refused to sleep with her. The next day David gave him a sealed note to take back to Uriah. Little did Uriah know that he was carrying his own death sentence. David's instructions on the note told the commander to put Uriah on the front lines of the battle so he would surely be killed. And so, Uriah was killed.

What a tragic crisis. David – guilty of lust and adultery and impregnating another man's wife, was now also guilty of murder.

Months later, David is met Nathan, the prophet. God had revealed David's sin to Nathan. Then Nathan shares with David about a two men, one poor and one rich. The poor man had one sheep, but the rich man had many sheep and cattle. The rich man has a visitor come and he decides to give him a meal. But, instead of serving up one of his lambs, he takes the only lamb from the poor man for dinner.

In rage David pronounces judgment on the wicked man, but Nathan then reveals that David is actually the man in the story and says the famous words, "You are the man!"

Preaching Outline:

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What If It's My Fault?

David had sinned in the case of committing adultery with Bathsheba. It was his fault. In Psalm 51 David shares his own story of the chaos in his life, conviction, confession, and his cleansing request to God.

1. **Sin Needs to be faced** Psalm 51: 1-3 “I acknowledge my sin...”
 - a. Look at the words David uses to describe his sin
 - 1) **Transgression** vs 1 – to step over the boundary with intentionality & rebellion
 - 2) **Iniquity** vs 2 – an offense to God’ holiness; to bend or deviate from the right way with intentionality and a twisted or perverted goal
 - 3) **Sin** vs 2 – missing the mark of God’s holiness
 - b. If we do not face out sin, we must either –
 - 1) **Ignore it** – pretend it does not exist
 - 2) **Deny it** – no such thing as sin
 - 3) **Suppress it** – I know it is wrong, but I will deal with it later
 - 4) **Rationalize it** – well, everybody else is doing it
 - 5) **Compare it** – well, at least I am not as bad as so and so over there...
 - 6) **Cover it** – David is the example; He lied about it, tried to get Uriah involved so he would be the dad to the coming child
2. **Sin Needs to be Traced** vs 5 (Ask, “How did I get here in the first place?... What happened?”)
 - a. I was brought forth in sin...
 - b. In sin did my mother conceive me...
 - 1) **Note** – David was not blaming his parents, nor was he saying their marital intimacy was a sin. He was simply stating what the entire human race must confess – I was conceived with and born with a sin nature.
 - 2) **But David recognizes that he has** (as well as all of us have) **a sin nature**. That sin nature, if left to itself, will bring us disobedience and ultimate destruction.
 - 3) **The entire experience of David & Bathsheba reveals to us again the destructive nature of sin and rebellion toward God.**
3. **Sin Needs to be Erased** vs 1, 2, 7 – 9 and atoned for
 - a. Look at David’s cry to God – “against you oh God I have sinned” vs 4
 - 1) **Blot out** my transgressions
 - 2) **Wash me** thoroughly
 - 3) **Cleanse me** from my sins
 - 4) **Purge me** with hyssop

- 5) **Wash me** and I will be whiter than snow
 - 6) **Hide Your face, God, from my sins**
 - 7) **Blot out** my iniquities
- b. Look at David's crisis as the result of his sin
- 1) Psalm 32
- 4. Before David confessed, the wages of his sin were devastating**
- a. His bones (probably joints) ached
 - b. He groaned in pain
 - c. His vitality dried up
- 1) Psalm 38
- 5. Even after confession David continues with the physical & mental consequences of his sin**
- a. No soundness in his flesh
 - b. No health in his bones
 - c. The burden of sin was heavy upon him
 - d. His wounds were nasty
 - e. He was bowed down low
- 6. Then David cried a second time for God's mercy - Psalm 51:1**
- a. Have mercy on me, O God...
 - b. According to your loving kindness
 - c. According to the multitude of your tender mercies

Note Two Things:

David cries for forgiveness from God. He had sinned against Bathsheba, Uriah and his family, and against the entire nation of Israel. Yet here we see his transparent confession before God. And secondly

David cries for mercy from God. I have often thought, "What is the difference between God's grace and God's mercy?" This seems to be what the Bible teaches:

- a. Grace is God giving me what I do not deserve
- b. Mercy is God withholding from me what I do deserve.

7. Sin Needs To Be Replaced vs 10-12

- a. David has asked God to cleanse his heart and soul from sin
- b. David now asks God to replace that sin with...
 - 1) Joy vs 8, 12
 - 2) Freshness of the Holy Spirit vs 11
 - 3) A renewed opportunity to have Godly influence again vs 13

Conclusion:

Psalm 51:17 says genuine forgiveness that results from genuine confession comes from a genuinely broken and contrite heart. When we realize we have sinned, we do not strut to God for forgiveness, but rather we come broken, sorrowful, and with a repenting attitude, confessing and agreeing with God that have sinned and are in desperate need of forgiveness. The same attitude must be prevalent when we have wronged or offended another person. That same attitude of confession and brokenness should be genuinely expressed to the offended party so that your relationship with them can be restored.



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