

The God of the Second Chance **2 Samuel 12:26-31**

Introduction:

1. Have you noticed that we live in a very disposable society today? When it gets dirty, we throw it away (disposable razors, trash can liners, gloves, contact lens, paper plates, diapers, etc.).
 - People today are so busy, they don't want to have to take the time to clean. So, if it gets dirty, they throw it away.
2. I am so glad that God doesn't operate this way with us. When we sin and get dirty, God doesn't just throw us away. He will clean us up and use us again. He is the God of the second chance.
3. David found this out. David found himself in deep, immoral sin. David paid a great price for his sin. In this chapter, we see the consequences of David's sin.
4. But, after David repented of his sin, notice what happened (vs. 26-31). David was once again winning victories for God. What a gracious God we serve. He is the God of the second chance.
5. Maybe some of you have made some bad choices in the past, and you found yourselves entangled in sin. There is great news. God is the God of the second chance. God can still use you, and you can still win spiritual victories.
6. But how do you win mighty victories after you have fallen?

First, you must realize that God still wants to use you.

1. As I said earlier, God doesn't treat us like a disposable trash can liner – when we get dirty, He doesn't throw us in the garbage. But, Satan wants you to have this concept of God.
 - He wants to convince you that God is done with you – that you have wandered beyond His outstretched hand of mercy and grace, and there is no hope.
 - This, of course, is a lie, and is a ploy from Satan to keep you living in spiritual defeat and misery.
2. In the Bible, God is called "*the God of all grace*" (1 Peter 5:10), "*the God of all comfort*" (2 Corinthians 1:3), "*the God of patience*" (Romans 15:5), "*the God of hope*" (Romans 15:13), "*the God of peace*" (Hebrews 13:20), a God "*who is rich in mercy.*" Ephesians 2:4
 - David found out that God still wanted to use him even after he messed everything up.
 - Jonah – At the height of the storm, when the drunken sailors had thrown him overboard, and a great fish swallowed him up and spit him out, God was waiting on dry land to give him another chance.
 - Peter – He cursed and denied Christ, but later preached in Acts 2 with great power.

- All three of these men had something in common. They all repented of their sin and desired to get right with God. If we truly come to God in repentance, He will pick us up, dust us off, and use us again.
3. I didn't say there wouldn't be consequences or scars from your sin, but God will restore you and use you again because He's the God of the second chance.

Second, you must learn from past failures.

1. When Joab called for David to come to battle, this time David went! vs. 28-29
2. Remember what happened last time? It was time to go to battle, and David stayed home (11:1), and that is when he got into trouble. David had learned from his past failure.
3. If we are going to win battles for God in the present, we must learn from our failures in the past. You can't change your past, but you can learn from it!
4. David, Jonah, and Peter all had a common problem – a lack of obedience. David didn't want to go to battle, Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh, and Peter didn't want to watch and pray.
5. But, they all learned from past failures. The next time, David scurried off to battle, Jonah hightailed it to Nineveh, and Peter went into the upper room and watched and prayed like Jesus told him to do. All three won great victories.
 - “Great victories in the future are often won by graceful losses in the past.”
 - “Failure should be our teacher, not our undertaker.”
6. They all learned that God doesn't **desire** obedience, He **demand**s it. If we are to win victories after we have fallen, we must learn from past failures.

Third, you must refuse to dwell on the past.

1. We need to **learn** from the past, not **dwell** on the past. This is what David did. He didn't sit around dwelling on the past and moaning about it. He got up and kept going.
2. What a shame when we kill the present by dwelling on the past – dwelling on your own failures, or your spouse's failures, or your children's failures. We need to be like Paul. Philippians 3:13 – Forget those things which are behind, and press forward.
3. The devil will constantly throw your past in your face, and try to beat you down with it. He'll also bring up the past failures of other people, and try to fill your heart with bitterness. If you allow this, you are in for a long, rough life.
4. Do you want to win victories for God? Refuse to dwell on the past.

Fourth, you must enlist and accept the help of others.

1. Notice in verse 29 that David gathered all the people together. This is where David went wrong previously. He separated himself from the group, and was alone.
2. If we are going to win victories after we have fallen, it will take the help, encouragement, and fellowship of other believers. Galatians 6:1-2

3. Many times we fail, and the devil convinces us to quit church – “You’re nothing but a hypocrite.” Is the devil really concerned about hypocrites in the church? Of course not! He isn’t trying to do you or the church any favors. He is trying to keep you away from the very place you need the most.
4. A hypocrite is somebody pretending to be something they are not. How many of you came today with the attitude, “I am completely holy and perfect, and that is why I am here”?
 - How many came with this attitude: “I am not perfect, and I am not completely holy, and I am here because I need to hear what God’s Word has to say”?
5. We all need the fellowship and encouragement of other believers. Hopefully that is what we’ll get. God’s desire is not that you be a loner in the service of God. He wants us to work together as a team, as a body. 1 Corinthians 12:25-27

In Conclusion:

1. Notice how the story ends (vs. 30). David is back on the mountain winning victories for God.
2. Did you know our King, Jesus Christ, has already won the victory over sin and Satan? Our victory doesn’t lie in ourselves or in our own willpower or self-confidence. Our victory lies in a person – Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:57
 - This is true before salvation, and it is true after salvation.
3. God can use you after you have fallen because the victory has already been won at Calvary. We must simply rest and rely on Christ and His victorious power.