

## Mistakes we Make

Making mistakes is just like breathing for humans and it's a very big part of our nature. News flash: No one is perfect. Everyone makes mistakes. Even the greatest examples we have in the Bible had their weaknesses. And yet somehow God used them in mighty ways.

There is no way we can ever resolve all the mistakes we make and by the time we fix one mistake, we have already made another. The problems you face will either defeat you or draw you closer to God and that all depends on how you respond to them.

God wants to use our problems or mistakes for good if we trust Him through it. Many times we react foolishly or even resent the problems. God forgives and even blesses the mistakes of faithful people.

I want to encourage you by telling you that you are in good company. The bible is full of people who were really not that different from you. Below are some individuals in the Bible who had "issues" in their lives.

*"And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthah; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Through faith they conquered kingdoms, did what God approved, and received what God had promised" (Hebrews 11:32-33).*

This passage, is a reminder that many others have gone before us, that we are not alone in our joys and sorrows, and we are part of a bigger story! Over and over through Scripture, we see God redeem mistakes people made. Lets take a deeper look at them.

- Enoch - his father was a murderer (Gen 4:17-18)
- Noah - was a drunk (Gen 9:2-27)
- Abraham - questioned God (Gen 18:23-32 Sodom) and was old
- Sarah - had problems with other women (Gen 16:4-6; Gen 21:9-14)
- Jacob - was a liar (Gen 27:1-29) and identity thief
- Joseph - was a tattler (Gen 37:2) and was abused
- Moses – had a speaking problem (Exodus 4:14)
- Rahab was a prostitute (Heb 11:31 & James 2:25)
- Gideon - was afraid, poor, and unsure –(Judges 6:15)
- Barak needed a woman's help (Judges 4:8)
- Samson had long hair and was a womanizer
- Jephthah was illegitimate and son of a prostitute (Judges 11:1-2)
- David - was an adulterer and murderer
- Samuel - appointed dishonest judges over Beersheba (they just happened to be his two sons! (1 Samuel 8:1-3)

No one is perfect. Everyone has issues. We look back on our mistakes with sorrow that we cannot undo them. But God, well He looks forward and sees how He can use them to change our futures.

These are our examples. Are you getting this? You may not have the power to repair your mistakes, but He does. You just have to let Him. If you have made mistakes within your family,

study Joseph in Genesis. If you are wrestling with your job try studying the life of Moses. If you are tempted to retaliate (and we all battle this one!) or come against leadership, examine how David handled the problems of Saul.

*“Since we are surrounded by so many examples of faith, we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially sin that distracts us. We must run the race that lies ahead of us and never give up. 2 We must focus on Jesus, the source and goal of our faith. He saw the joy ahead of him, so he endured death on the cross and ignored the disgrace it brought him” Hebrews 12:1-2*

All the individuals ran the race before you had similar problems as you have, but they kept on running anyway. They are those who looked to God and His truth. The good news is, even though they were not perfect they trusted Him and kept moving forward.

When we come to Him, He will not turn us away, nor let us wander away. Ever. He is faithful to His people.

So remember my friend, the next time you make a mistake that you cannot change it. Commit it to God. Remember, He looks at your mistake and knows how He can redeem it.

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