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CONFESSION

Hello! I am eager to inform you about His Word, but let's pray first.

Heavenly Father, Lord, we look forward to learning about Your Word here. Help us to fully understand Your Word through the power of the Holy Spirit. I pray that this Word will be clear to us and penetrate into our heart and life. Thank You for continually loving us everyday. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

I will share a story from II Samuel 12 in the Old Testament. This story is about a conversation between Nathan and David. Nathan came to David and told him a story about a rich man and a poor man.

The rich man had everything, including a very large number of sheep and cattle. The poor man had only one sheep that he took care of, fed, and bathed. When the poor man finished his meal, he gave the rest of his meal to his sheep. He had a special bond with his sheep and loved his precious sheep. Later, when the rich man had a visitor, he decided to take the sheep from the poor man. He took the sheep and cooked it to prepare a feast for the visitor.

As David listened to the story Nathan was telling, he burned with anger and claimed that the rich man was wrong and ignorant for stealing the poor man's sheep. David thought the rich man should be punished for his wrongdoing. But Nathan told David, "You are that man, the rich man is you!"

David was convicted and looked into his heart, what he had done in his past. He confessed that he had sinned against the Lord. What did David do in the past?

One evening, David stood outside his home, looking around the city and his kingdom with many houses around him. He happened to look around and saw a beautiful woman bathing. So, he called a servant to bring the woman to David. Her name was Bathsheba. David and Bathsheba started to flirt, which eventually led to sleeping together. After David was content, Bathsheba went back home. As time went by, Bathsheba came back and informed David that she was pregnant. David was stunned that she was pregnant. He thought to himself "oh no" because she had a husband named Uriah. Her husband was at war, far away.

David took time to think of a plan and called her husband, Uriah, to come into his home. When he arrived, David asked him how the war was going. Uriah told him that the war was still going on and that he was busy as usual. David thanked him and told him to go home with Bathsheba. He told Uriah to go ahead and enjoy his time with his wife. Uriah went home and talked with Bathsheba, but did not sleep with her because many of his men were still at war. He thought that it would not be fair if they could not sleep with their wives, so he decided not to sleep with his wife to show that he was being fair with to other men. David hoped that Uriah would sleep with his wife to “cover-up” the pregnancy, so Uriah would not accuse David. David hoped that they would sleep together, but it did not happen. Uriah went back to war. David was disappointed and decided to write a letter to the general to put Uriah in the front of the battle where he later was killed. Now Bathsheba was able to join with David and became his wife.

So, that is why Nathan came to David and told him that he was “like a rich man who stole a poor man’s sheep”, which is in proportion to how David “stole Uriah’s wife.” David committed many sins – covered up his mistakes, slept with Bathsheba, lied, and killed Uriah. All of those sins were awful sins he did. Nathan, himself, came to confront David, and David knelt down and confessed his sins to the Lord. The Lord accepted David’s confession.

Psalm 51 is a good chapter for us to read and meditate on before asking the Lord to forgive us when we confess. When we confess, we need to recognize what mistakes we made. As we recognize our mistakes, we can confess before the Lord and acknowledge that He will forgive us and ask God to forgive us.

I want to give you a brief story about when my son and I went to his school. When I went to his school, his teacher gave me a paper about his bad deeds in school. I got the paper, folded it, and went home. I called my son to sit down with me, and I asked him gently and nicely about his bad deeds listed. My son said, “Yes, I confess that I did those bad deeds in school.”

I listened and asked him why. He said, “Because my action was wrong. I rebelled. I did not obey my teacher. I talked too much in my class. I was wrong. I need to change, be quiet, and obey more.”

I said, “Good. I forgive you.”

You see, my son confessed to me because I was gentle, passionate and willing to forgive. That is similar to our Heavenly Father, Who loves all of you so much that He is willing to listen to our confessions. He will forgive you. He will wash your sins clean. For He, Himself, has sent Jesus to the earth to die on the cross to forgive our sins. The blood shed from His flesh is intended to wash our sins clean.

Psalm 32:5 says, *“Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD’ –and you forgave the guilt of my sin.”*

Look into yourself and you will see your awful sins from your past such as:

- lying
- adultery
- sexual immorality
- vengeance
- beating someone up
- gossiping
- other sins

If you think that those sins cannot be forgiven, let me inform you that is not true. Let's look at David and how God quickly forgave him because he confessed and recognized his sins. And you can do the same thing by looking into your heart and recognizing your sins, your actions against God. Then confess them. He will forgive you because He loves you so much and He treasures you. He doesn't want sins to trap you in your life. He cares about you and wants to bond with you.

Let's pray. Heavenly Father, thank you, Lord, for teaching us the Bible story of David and Bathsheba. This story clearly shows that You used Nathan to come to David in a gentle way to inform him that he sinned, that his actions were against You. David accepted Nathan's encouragement, then recognized and confessed his sins to You, Lord. I pray that we will look into ourselves and confess our sins to You, Lord. So that You may wash our sins clean and give us the freedom from being enslaved to our sins. So that we may continue to grow in You, Lord. I thank You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.



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