



## MAIN SCRIPTURES

- Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
- Galatians 6:1-7

## SURRENDER MY WAYS

- Surrender Excuses
- Practice Responsibility

## FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

“Beloved, now we are children of God. **It is not yet revealed what we will be; but we know that when He is revealed, we will be like Him,** for we will see Him just as He is.” 1 John 3:2 WEBUS

“**This is the end of the matter.** All has been heard. **Fear God and keep his commandments;** for this is the whole duty of man. For **God will bring every work into judgment,** with **every hidden thing,** whether it is good, or whether it is evil.” Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

WEBUS

“**each man’s work will be revealed.** For the Day will declare it, because it is revealed in fire; and **the fire itself will test what sort of work each man’s work is.**” 1 Corinthians 3:13 WEBUS

“**The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me,** she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” Yahweh God said to the woman, “What have you done?” **The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”**” Genesis 3:12-13 WEBUS

**“Aaron said, “Don’t let the anger of my Lord grow hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil. For they said to me, ‘Make us gods, which shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we don’t know what has become of him.’ I said to them, ‘Whoever has any gold, let them take it off.’ So they gave it to me; and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf.””** Exodus 32:22-24 WEBUS

**“But let each man examine his own work, and then he will have reason to boast in himself, and not in someone else. For each man will bear his own burden.”** Galatians 6:4-5 WEBUS

**“David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against Yahweh.” Nathan said to David, “Yahweh also has put away your sin. You will not die.”** 2 Samuel 12:13 WEBUS

**“For I know my transgressions. My sin is constantly before me. Against you, and you only, I have sinned, and done that which is evil in your sight, so you may be proved right when you speak, and justified when you judge.”** Psalms 51:3-4 WEBUS

## **INTRODUCTION:**

*Cease resistance; abandon control of your life entirely, and come into complete submission to God. That’s what it means to surrender. When Y’shua returns, some of you will be like Him. And*

*for that transformation to occur, it requires that you surrender making excuses and practice taking responsibility.*

*Pray this without ceasing: “God, I will cease from rationalizing and from offering reasons for my or another’s wrongful deeds, unacceptable behavior, or lack of follow-through. I will no longer seek to defend or justify my disobedience, faults, offenses, and ungodly beliefs—or attempt to lessen their significance, as everything is known by You, oh Yahweh. Today, I become accountable for my own actions and choices; and I will hold others accountable for their actions and choices as well.”*

*Whoever won’t surrender making excuses and practice taking responsibility, simply won’t become like Him.*

**SURRENDER THAT I CAN DO IT MYSELF, MY WAY, AND FOR ME!**

## **1. Surrender My Ways: Surrender Excuses & Practice Responsibility**

### **A. Surrender Excuses**

(1) **Introduction:** Surrender that I can do it my way!

(a) **Surrender Excuses:** Cease from rationalizing and from offering reasons for your or another’s wrongful deeds, unacceptable behavior, or lack of follow-through. Don’t seek to defend or justify your disobedience, faults,

offenses, and ungodly beliefs—or attempt to lessen their significance as everything is known by the Lord.

1. **“This is the end of the matter.** All has been heard. **Fear God and keep his commandments;** for this is the whole duty of man. For **God will bring every work into judgment,** with **every hidden thing,** whether it is good, or whether it is evil.” Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

WEBUS

- a) When the final curtain drops on your life and nothing more can be said from you, to you, or about you, two questions will be answered...
  - 1) *Did you reverence God?* Assessed by the demonstration of your beliefs—chiefly by **the many testimonies** of your faith in Christ.
  - 2) *Did you obey God?* Determined by your lifestyle—chiefly by **how you consistently treated** God’s commandments.
- b) No one will escape judgment! Everything you ever did and every secret thought you ever had will be evaluated by God...
  - 1) *“Now he who plants and he who waters are the same, but **each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.** {11} For **no one can***

*lay any other foundation than that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ. But if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, **each man's work will be revealed. For the Day will declare it, because it is revealed in fire; and the fire itself will test what sort of work each man's work is.** If any man's work remains which he built on it, he will **receive a reward**. If any man's work is burned, he will **suffer loss**, but he himself will be saved, but as through fire."* 1 Corinthians 3:8, 11-15 WEBUS

c) You can hide nothing from Yahweh!

1) "*But there is **nothing covered up that will not be revealed**, nor hidden that will not be known.*" Luke 12:2 WEBUS

d) You will give an account to Yahweh!

1) "*For **the word of God** is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and **is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart. There is no creature that is hidden from his sight, but all***

*things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him to whom we must give an account."*

Hebrews 4:12-13 WEBUS

- (b) Cease from **rationalizing** as did Saul, Abraham, Adam, Eve, the ten spies, Jacob's sons, Judah, and Aaron,
  - 1. Making **EXCUSES** for **your** or **another's** wrongful deeds, unacceptable behavior, or lack of follow-through. **Defending, justifying, or lessening the significance** of your **disobedience, faults, offenses, or ungodly beliefs.**

**(2) Excuse: Saul did it for God...**

- (a) It only appears to be selfish disobedience; when in reality I'm calling it a selfless sacrifice to Yahweh.
  - 1. ""Then Yahweh's word came to Samuel, saying, "It grieves me that I have set up **Saul** to be king, for he has turned back from following me, and **has not performed my commandments.**" Samuel was angry; and he cried to Yahweh all night. Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning; and Samuel was told, saying, "**Saul** came to Carmel, and behold, he **set up a monument for himself,** turned, passed on, and went down to Gilgal." Samuel came to Saul; and **Saul said to him, "You are blessed by Yahweh! I have**

**performed the commandment of Yahweh.”** Samuel said, “Then what does this bleating of the sheep in my ears and the lowing of the cattle which I hear mean?” Saul said, “**They have** brought them from the Amalekites; for **the people spared the best** of the sheep and of the cattle, **to sacrifice to Yahweh your God.** We have utterly destroyed the rest.”” 1 Samuel 15:10-15 WEBUS

- a) Saul blatantly disobeyed a direct command from Yahweh, and God was furious.
  - 1) Yet, Saul was so confident about his choice to disregard God that he celebrated his decision.
  - 2) He even bragged about his rebellion, as if disobeying God was pleasing to God.
  - 3) When Saul’s self-deception was exposed, he unashamedly blamed others for his choices and claimed everything he did was a selfless sacrifice to Yahweh.
2. “**Why then didn’t you obey Yahweh’s voice,** but took the plunder, and did that which was evil in Yahweh’s sight?” Saul said to Samuel, “**But I have obeyed Yahweh’s voice,** and have gone the way which Yahweh sent me, and have brought Agag the king of

Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

**But the people took** of the plunder, sheep and cattle, **the best of the devoted things, to sacrifice to Yahweh your God** in Gilgal.”” 1 Samuel 15:19-21 WEBUS

a) Unfortunately, when Saul was confronted again by Samuel and he could no longer sidestep reality, he doubled down on **defending his decision** to not utterly destroy the Amalekites, **justifying** why he did it, and **lessening the significance** of disobeying Yahweh’s orders!

1) **Defense:** *“But I have obeyed Yahweh’s voice.”*

2) **Justification:** *“The people took the plunder.”*

3) **Insignificance:** *“It was all a sacrifice to Yahweh.”*

(b) King Saul...

1. ...defended and justified his unacceptable behavior. He lessened the significance of his disobedience and blamed the people for his bad choices. He claimed that what he did was not so tragic because he did it all as a sacrifice to Yahweh, so why make such a big deal about it?

a) *“Each man’s work **will be revealed**...”* 1 Cor. 3:13

b) *“There is **nothing hidden** that will not be known.”*

Luke 12:2

c) *“All things are open before the eyes of Him **to whom we must give an account.**”* Heb. 4:12-13

### **(3) Excuse: Abraham’s life was in jeopardy...**

(a) I know I left out the most important fact, but she really is my sister!

1. “Abraham traveled from there toward the land of the South, and lived between Kadesh and Shur. He lived as a foreigner in Gerar. **Abraham said about Sarah his wife, “She is my sister.”** Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah. But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him, **“Behold, you are a dead man, because of the woman whom you have taken; for she is a man’s wife.”** Now Abimelech had not come near her. He said, “Lord, will you kill even a righteous nation? **Didn’t he tell me, ‘She is my sister’?** She, even she herself, said, ‘He is my brother.’ **I have done this in the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands.”**” Genesis 20:1-5 WEBUS

a) Fear makes people do scary things!

1) Abraham decided to introduce his wife Sarah as his sister.

2) So, Abimelech took Sarah with the intention of having sexual relations with her.

- 3) God warned Abimelech in a dream that He was going to kill him because he had taken another man's wife.
  - 4) Fortunately for Abimelech, he had not yet had sexual relations with her.
  - 5) Abimelech pleaded with the Lord to spare him because Abraham had introduced Sarah as his sister, and Sarah insisted that Abraham was her brother.
  - 6) He claimed that he had acted out of integrity and that his heart and hands were innocent.
2. "Abimelech said to Abraham, **"What did you see, that you have done this thing?"** Abraham said, **"Because I thought, 'Surely the fear of God is not in this place. They will kill me for my wife's sake.' Besides, she is indeed my sister,** the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife. When God caused me to wander from my father's house, **I said to her, 'This is your kindness which you shall show to me. Everywhere that we go, say of me, "He is my brother."'"**" Genesis 20:10-13 WEBUS

a) Unfortunately, Abraham made excuses for his unacceptable behavior—his **ungodly approach** to his circumstances, **justifying** why he lied, and he minimized how his fear and lack of faith were an **offense** to Yahweh.

- 1) **Ungodly:** *“Because Abimelech had no fear of God, Abraham was sure that he’d kill him and take his wife.”*
- 2) **Justification:** *“Abraham feared for his life, and besides, she really was his sister.”*
- 3) **Offensive:** *“He was not at all concerned about what would happen to Abimelech as a result of his incomplete truth.”*

(b) Abraham...

1. ...made excuses for his wrong choice and ungodly belief that he should claim his wife is his sister. He justified his offense and unacceptable behavior for safety reasons. He was protecting himself, so what’s so wrong with that? And she was indeed his half-sister, so leaving out the small detail that she was ALSO his WIFE was not that significant, was it?

a) *“Each man’s work **will be revealed**...”* 1 Cor. 3:13

b) *“There is **nothing hidden** that will not be known.”*

Luke 12:2

c) *“All things are open before the eyes of Him **to whom we must give an account.**”* Heb. 4:12-13

#### **(4) Excuse: Eve got tricked and Adam wasn't aware...**

(a) Yahweh instructed us to neither eat nor touch the fruit, but then I was assured it was all a conspiracy.

1. “Now the serpent was more subtle than any animal of the field which Yahweh God had made. He said to the woman, “Has God really said, ‘You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, **“We may eat fruit from the trees of the garden, but not the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden. God has said, ‘You shall not eat of it. You shall not touch it, lest you die.’”** The serpent said to the woman, **“You won't really die, for God knows that in the day you eat it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”** When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took some of its fruit, and ate. Then she gave some to her husband with her, and he ate it,

**too.** Their eyes were opened, and **they both knew that they were naked.** They sewed fig leaves together, and made coverings for themselves. They heard Yahweh God's voice walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and **the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of Yahweh** God among the trees of the garden." Genesis 3:1-8 WEBUS

a) Lies, Conspiracies, and Video Tapes

- 1) The serpent was very cunning. He purposely introduced doubt and uncertainty.
- 2) He knew God specified which tree was forbidden, so he made a straw-man argument by asking an irrelevant question: *"Has God really said, 'You shall not eat **of any tree** of the garden'?"*
- 3) The answer to that question should be "No!" But what he was really after is a "No" to the real question: *"Has God really said, 'You shall not eat the fruit of **the tree** which is **in the middle of the garden**'?"* The answer to that question should be "Yes!"
- 4) Eve is flustered, such that she recounts God's exact instructions to Adam incorrectly: *"You*

*shall not eat of it. **You shall not touch it**, lest you die.” God **never** said you can’t touch it!*

- 5) Now the woman is perfectly set for the Devil to insert his conspiracy: *“You won’t really die. But God knows that if you eat it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”*
  - 6) Eve took the bait! It looked delicious; and who wouldn’t want to be wise like God? She ate some fruit and shared some with her paralyzed, negligent husband—and he joined her.
  - 7) Immediately they realized their sin was exposed (naked) and they attempted to cover it up.
  - 8) They had become so thoroughly entrenched in their disobedience and ungodly behavior that they believed they could hide from Yahweh’s presence.
  - 9) But it was all caught on video!
2. “Yahweh God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” The man said, “I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; so **I hid myself.**” **God said, “Who told you that you were naked?** Have you eaten from the tree that I

commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Yahweh God said to the woman, "What have you done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate.""  
Genesis 3:9-13 WEBUS

a) Unfortunately for Adam and Eve, it was all caught on camera; or in other words, you can't **hide** anything from God. They could **point fingers**, but in the end, any **excuse** for their **sinful, unacceptable behavior** was rejected. Their **defense**—the behavior was **justified** because it was not their fault. And as such, they shouldn't be punished for their disobedience and offense against God.

- 1) **Hiding:** *"We were doing our best to avoid our sinful, unacceptable behavior being exposed."*
- 2) **Excuses:** *"Yahweh, you made that woman and gave her to me."*
- 3) **Justification:** *"The Devil deceived me; he told me it was good, and you were preventing me from benefiting."*

(b) Adam and Eve...

1. ...deflected the blame for their wrongful deed and then justified their unacceptable behavior. There was a very good reason for what they did; it wasn't their fault. Adam stood by and watched his wife sin, and then joined her disobedience, but that was her fault, not his, wasn't it? And the devil assured Eve that the restriction was all a conspiracy; or she wouldn't have dreamed of even "touching that fruit" on her own.

That serpent the Devil tricked her into doing so!

a) *"Each man's work **will be revealed**..."* 1 Cor. 3:13

b) *"There is **nothing hidden** that will not be known."*

Luke 12:2

c) *"All things are open before the eyes of Him **to whom we must give an account**."* Heb. 4:12-13

#### **(5) Excuse: The spies saw giants and fortified cities...**

(a) The Promised Land looks like a fantastic place to live, except for those giant men, massive, impenetrable cities, and how small we feel in comparison.

1. "They returned from spying out the land at the end of forty days. They went and came to Moses, to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, to the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word to them and to all the congregation. They

showed them the fruit of the land. **They told him, and said, “We came to the land where you sent us. Surely it flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. Moreover, we saw the children of Anak there.**

Amalek dwells in the land of the South. The Hittite, the Jebusite, and the Amorite dwell in the hill country. The Canaanite dwells by the sea, and along the side of the Jordan.” Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, “Let’s go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it!” **But the men who went up with him said, “We aren’t able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.” They brought up an evil report of the land which they had spied out to the children of Israel, saying, “The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that eats up its inhabitants; and all the people who we saw in it are men of great stature. There we saw the Nephilim, the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim. We were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.”**” Numbers 13:25-33 WEBUS

a) A bad report...

1) 12 spies returned from spying out the land after 40 days—and 10 of them brought this report:

2) The land is fertile and abundant; however, the people are too strong, and the cities are too well-protected and too large to invade.

3) Caleb [& Joshua] disagreed because Yahweh is on our side: *“Let’s go immediately and take it over; we can absolutely prevail!”*

4) The 10 spies pushed back with an evil report because Yahweh is irrelevant: *“We can’t defeat these people; they are way more powerful. The land will chew us up and spit us out; it’s inhabited by giants, who will take one look at us and see us as tiny, pesky bugs. And we agree; that’s exactly how we feel about ourselves.”*

2. “All the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. **All the children of Israel murmured** against Moses and against Aaron. **The whole congregation said to them, “We wish that we had died in the land of Egypt, or that we had died in this wilderness!** Why does Yahweh bring us to this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our

little ones will be captured or killed! **Wouldn't it be better for us to return into Egypt?**" They said to one another, **"Let's choose a leader, and let's return into Egypt."** Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel." Numbers 14:1-5 WEBUS

a) Unfortunately, the people chose to believe the negative report instead of Caleb's positive news. Now they had every **excuse** to complain. Their **unacceptable reaction** and **unwillingness to follow through** with God's orders were completely **justified**. They could easily **defend** their **ungodly choice** to choose a new leader and head back into captivity.

1) **Excuses:** *"The land itself and the people in it are too much to handle."*

2) **Unacceptable Behavior:** *"We have good reasons to cry and complain. Forget what that one guy said; didn't you hear what those other guys said?"*

3) **No Follow-through:** *"Instead of doing what God wants, let's choose someone to lead us who will give us what we want."*

- 4) **Justification:** *“We believe we are weak and insignificant, and our enemies agree.”*
- 5) **Defensible ungodly choice:** *“The safe thing to do is to abort this mission, pack our bags, and head back to our comfort zone—as bad as that was, it is less scary than moving forward.”*

(b) The Ten Spies...

1. ...had good reasons to abort Yahweh’s plan, to lack follow-through on their assignment. There were giants in that land who were obviously bigger than the God who sent them. Their justification seemed totally reasonable—the land was great, but those giants were greater. Did you see them? They were really, really big!
  - a) *“Each man’s work **will be revealed**...”* 1 Cor. 3:13
  - b) *“There is **nothing hidden** that will not be known.”*  
Luke 12:2
  - c) *“All things are open before the eyes of Him **to whom we must give an account**.”* Heb. 4:12-13

## **(6) Excuse: Simeon and Levi were angry...**

- (a) We know we picked a fight and created a giant, unnecessary enemy, but they harmed someone we care about, so if their retribution destroys us all, so be it.

1. “Dinah, the daughter of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her. **He took her, lay with her, and humbled her. His soul joined to Dinah, the daughter of Jacob,** and he loved the young lady, and spoke kindly to the young lady. Shechem spoke to his father, Hamor, saying, “Get me this young lady as a wife.” **Now Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah,** his daughter; and his sons were with his livestock in the field. Jacob held his peace until they came. Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to talk with him. **The sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard it. The men were grieved, and they were very angry, because he had done folly in Israel in lying with Jacob’s daughter, a thing that ought not to be done.”** Genesis 34:1-7 WEBUS

a) Jacob and Leah’s daughter Dinah was raped by Shechem, a young Hivite man.

1) Shechem claimed he was in love with her, but of course, Jacob considered the violation a complete defilement of his daughter.

- 2) When Jacob's sons heard about it, they were horrified and furious.
2. "Hamor talked with them, saying, "The soul of my son, Shechem, longs for your daughter. Please give her to him as a wife. Make marriages with us. Give your daughters to us, and take our daughters for yourselves. You shall dwell with us, and the land will be before you. Live and trade in it, and get possessions in it." Shechem said to her father and to her brothers, "Let me find favor in your eyes, and whatever you will tell me I will give. Ask me a great amount for a dowry, and I will give whatever you ask of me, but give me the young lady as a wife." **The sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father with deceit when they spoke, because he had defiled Dinah** their sister, and said to them, "**We can't do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised;** for that is a reproach to us. Only on this condition will we consent to you. **If you will be as we are, that every male of you be circumcised, then will we give our daughters to you;** and we will take your daughters to us, and we will dwell with you, and we will become one people. But if you will

not listen to us and be circumcised, then we will take our sister, and we will be gone.” Genesis 34:8-17

WEBUS

- a) Hamor, Shechem’s father, wants to cut a deal with Jacob for his son to marry Dinah.
  - 1) In fact, he paints a pretty picture of how wonderful it would be if their two peoples intermarried and did business together.
  - 2) Shechem even pleads with Jacob for his daughter and offers to pay him any asking price!
  - 3) Dinah’s brothers get involved and claim that intermarrying won’t work because the Hivite men are uncircumcised.
  - 4) They make a deceitful offer: *“If the Hivite men get circumcised, then we can make a deal.”* But, they have no intention of letting these marriages take place.
3. **“Their words pleased Hamor and Shechem,** Hamor’s son. The young man didn’t wait to do this thing, because he had delight in Jacob’s daughter, and he was honored above all the house of his father. Hamor and Shechem, his son, came to the gate of their city, and talked with the men of their city, saying, “These

men are peaceful with us. Therefore let them live in the land and trade in it. For behold, the land is large enough for them. Let's take their daughters to us for wives, and let's give them our daughters. **Only on this condition will the men consent to us to live with us, to become one people, if every male among us is circumcised**, as they are circumcised. Won't their livestock and their possessions and all their animals be ours? Only let's give our consent to them, and they will dwell with us." Genesis 34:18-23 WEBUS

- a) Hamor and Shechem accept the condition.
  - 1) Shechem is anxious to get circumcised right away as he is desperate to get with Dinah.
  - 2) They quickly convince other Hivite men to do the same, as this will be great for business.
4. "All who went out of the gate of his city listened to Hamor, and to Shechem his son; and every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city. **On the third day, when they were sore, two of Jacob's sons, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, each took his sword, came upon the unsuspecting city, and killed all the males. They killed Hamor and Shechem, his son, with the edge of the sword, and**

took Dinah out of Shechem's house, and went away. Jacob's sons came on the dead, and plundered the city, **because they had defiled their sister. They took their flocks**, their herds, their donkeys, that which was in the city, that which was in the field, and all their wealth. **They took captive** all their little ones and their wives, and took as plunder everything that was in the house." Genesis 34:24-29 WEBUS

a) Let the circumcisions begin!

- 1) Three days after all the men were circumcised and they were all incapacitated with pain, Jacob's sons, Simeon and Levi, instituted the plan they had all along.
- 2) They invaded the city and slaughtered every man—including Hamor and Shechem.
- 3) They took all their possessions and kidnapped their women and children.

5. **"Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have troubled me, to make me odious to the inhabitants of the land**, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites. I am few in number. They will gather themselves together against me and strike me, and I will be destroyed, I

and my house.” **They said, “Should he deal with our sister as with a prostitute?”** Genesis 34:1-31 WEBUS

a) Unfortunately, Simeon and Levi don’t care that their father Jacob is outraged by their **wrongful deeds**. They feel completely **justified** because their sister was treated like a prostitute. So, the fact that their father is now worried that his people will be annihilated is of **no significance** to them. Their choice to **offend** a larger nation and even their own father is **defensible**—we did it for Dinah.

- 1) **Wrong:** *“They lied, plotted, murdered, stole, and kidnapped...”*
- 2) **Justifiable:** *“They treated our sister like a whore!”*
- 3) **Insignificant:** *“We don’t care if we worried our father, nor if the consequences for our actions hurt others.”*
- 4) **Offensive:** *“We angered and wakened a massive enemy, and harmed our own father at the same time.”*
- 5) **Defensible:** *“We did it all because they defiled our sister.”*

(b) Jacobs sons...

1. ...had every right to defend their sister's honor because she had been defiled by Shechem. Their unacceptable behavior couldn't be that serious. Killing all those men was for a good cause, even if it was not for God's cause. It was not their fault that they committed such a heinous act—those men did a very bad thing—treating their sister like a prostitute!
  - a) *“Each man's work **will be revealed**...”* 1 Cor. 3:13
  - b) *“There is **nothing hidden** that will not be known.”*  
Luke 12:2
  - c) *“All things are open before the eyes of Him **to whom we must give an account**.”* Heb. 4:12-13

**(7) Excuse: Judah was lonely...**

- (a) If you begin in the wrong direction, you will never end up at the right destination.
  1. “At that time, Judah went down from his brothers, and visited a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah. **There, Judah saw the daughter of a certain Canaanite man named Shua.** He took her, and went in to her. She conceived, and bore a son; and he named him Er. She conceived again, and bore a son; and she named him Onan. She yet again bore a son, and named him Shelah. He was at Chezib when she

bore him. **Judah took a wife for Er, his firstborn, and her name was Tamar.** Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in Yahweh's sight. So **Yahweh killed him.** <sup>{8}</sup> **Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her, and raise up offspring for your brother."** <sup>{9}</sup> Onan knew that the offspring wouldn't be his; and when he went in to his brother's wife, **he spilled his semen on the ground, lest he should give offspring to his brother.** The thing which he did was **evil in Yahweh's sight, and he killed him also.** Then **Judah said to Tamar, his daughter-in-law, "Remain a widow in your father's house, until Shelah, my son, is grown up;"** for **he said, "Lest he also die, like his brothers. Tamar went and lived in her father's house."** Genesis 38:1-11 WEBUS

- a) Judah married a Canaanite (this already testifies to his character) ...
  - 1) They had three sons: Er, Onan, and Shelah.
  - 2) Judah took Tamar as a wife for Er, his firstborn.
  - 3) Er was wicked, so Yahweh killed him.
- b) **The Law of the Levirate Marriage:** commands that the next older brother step in to give Tamar a son.

- 1) *“If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the dead shall not be married outside to a stranger. **Her husband’s brother shall go in to her, and take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband’s brother to her.** It shall be that **the firstborn whom she bears shall succeed in the name of his brother who is dead, that his name not be blotted out of Israel.**” Deut. 25:5-6 WEBUS*
- c) And that is what Judah instructed his second son *Onan* to do for his brother.
  - 1) *\*“**Go in to your brother’s wife, and perform the duty of a husband’s brother to her, and raise up offspring for your brother.**” Gen. 38:8*
- d) But that did not work out as it should...
  - 1) Onan was aware that a son born to Tamar under these conditions would not be his, so he had sex with Tamar, but would not allow his semen to enter her.
  - 2) Instead, at the last moment, he spilled his semen on the ground. Yahweh considered that an abomination, so He killed him also.

- 3) By law, Judah had no choice but to offer Tamar his third son Shelah, who was legitimately still too young, but in reality, he did not want to ever give him for fear that he'd wind up dead also...
2. "After many days, Shua's daughter, **the wife of Judah, died.** Judah was comforted, and went up to his sheep shearers to Timnah, he and his friend Hirah, the Adullamite. Tamar was told, "Behold, your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep." She took off the garments of her widowhood, and covered herself with her veil, and wrapped herself, and sat in the gate of Enaim, which is on the way to Timnah; for **she saw that Shelah was grown up, and she wasn't given to him as a wife. When Judah saw her, he thought that she was a prostitute,** for she had covered her face. **He turned to her by the way, and said, "Please come, let me come in to you," for he didn't know that she was his daughter-in-law.** She said, "What will you give me, that you may come in to me?" He said, "I will send you a young goat from the flock." She said, "Will you give me a pledge, until you send it?" He said, "What pledge will I give you?" She said, "Your signet and your cord, and your staff

that is in your hand." He gave them to her, and came in to her, and **she conceived by him**. She arose, and went away, and put off her veil from her, and put on the garments of her widowhood." Genesis 38:12-19

#### WEBUS

- a) Here again, Judah's character is tested and is found wanting...
- 1) His wife died, and after mourning, he went back to work.
  - 2) Tamar was told of Judah's whereabouts and simultaneously discovered that Shelah was old enough to fulfill his duty but had been withheld by Judah.
  - 3) So, she plotted an alternative route to the same destination.
  - 4) She swapped her garments of widowhood for the clothes of a prostitute, hid her face, and lured Judah into her trap. (Note: he could only be lured if he was a man of questionable character!)
  - 5) Judah didn't recognize Tamar, and he wanted to use her for the "services" she offered.

- 6) Tamar negotiated a price (one goat) and accepted Judah's signet, bracelet, and staff as his promise to pay.
  - 7) He agreed and had sex with her, and she conceived a child.
  - 8) Mission complete! Tamar swapped back to her widowhood attire and returned home to wait.
3. "Judah sent the young goat by the hand of his friend, the Adullamite, to receive the pledge from the woman's hand, **but he didn't find her. Then he asked the men of her place, saying, "Where is the prostitute, that was at Enaim by the road?"** They said, **"There has been no prostitute here."** He returned to Judah, and said, "I haven't found her; and also the men of the place said, 'There has been no prostitute here.'" **Judah said, "Let her keep it, lest we be shamed.** Behold, I sent this young goat, and you haven't found her.'" Genesis 38:20-23 WEBUS
- a) Time to pay up! Judah has yet to discover the true cost of his indiscretions.
    - 1) Judah sent his servant with the goat to get back the evidence of his flawed character, wrongful deeds, and unacceptable behavior.

- 2) And here is where it gets more complicated; the servant can't find the prostitute anywhere.
  - 3) He inquired around only to discover there have been no prostitutes in the area for quite some time.
  - 4) So he returned to Judah with the news, and Judah decided to let it go, in hopes that the whole thing just blows over on its own.
  - 5) It would look really suspicious if he pressed the issue, and his sin might get exposed.
  - 6) No such luck for Judah. His sin is about to become front and center!
4. **"About three months later, Judah was told, "Tamar, your daughter-in-law, has played the prostitute. Moreover, behold, she is with child by prostitution." Judah said, "Bring her out, and let her be burned."** When she was brought out, **she sent to her father-in-law, saying, "I am with child by the man who owns these."** She also said, **"Please discern whose these are—the signet, and the cords, and the staff."** Judah acknowledged them, and said, **"She is more righteous than I, because I didn't give her to Shelah, my son."** He knew her again no more. In the time of

her travail, behold, twins were in her womb. When she travailed, one put out a hand, and the midwife took and tied a scarlet thread on his hand, saying, "This came out first." As he drew back his hand, behold, his brother came out, and she said, "Why have you made a breach for yourself?" Therefore his name was called Perez. Afterward his brother came out, who had the scarlet thread on his hand, and his name was called Zerah." Genesis 38:24-30 WEBUS

1. Unfortunately for Judah, not only does it not blow over, but he's about to discover that withholding his third son in violation of God's law was a **wrong choice**, and supporting prostitution was an even worse **fault**. First, he finds out Tamar is pregnant, and he wants to burn her at the stake for her sexual immorality. Then, when she produces the evidence of the father's identity, he is convicted of his **ungodly behavior** on two fronts. He is a complete hypocrite; he too is sexually immoral, and he had **not followed through** by giving his third son to Tamar, as God required. All his unacceptable behavior began when he married a pagan woman, continued with his blatant

disobedience, and culminated by attempting to **justify** his loneliness with sexual immorality.

- 1) **Wrong Choices:** *“He married a pagan woman.”*
- 2) **Character Faults:** *“He is a hypocrite and a liar.”*
- 3) **Ungodly behavior:** *“He engaged in sexual promiscuity.”*
- 4) **Lack of follow-through:** *“He disregarded the Law of the Levirate Marriage.”*
- 5) **Justification:** *“He was afraid for his son’s life and he was lonely.”*
- 6) This outtake about Judah, in the midst of the extensive narrative on Joseph’s life in Genesis 37-50, serves in so many ways as the quintessential example of why it is so important to *“Surrender making Excuses and to Practice taking Responsibility.”*

(b) Judah...

1. ...felt justified for withholding his youngest son from marriage and sleeping with his daughter-in-law, who he thought was a prostitute. His wife had died, and he was lonely. He had every right to act as if he was righteous, even though he did something so wrong—something completely unacceptable. Besides, he was

also protecting his youngest son's life, so any wrongful deed he committed for that reason is just not that serious.

- a) *"Each man's work **will be revealed**..."* 1 Cor. 3:13
- b) *"There is **nothing hidden** that will not be known."*  
Luke 12:2
- c) *"All things are open before the eyes of Him **to whom we must give an account**."* Heb. 4:12-13

#### **(8) Excuse: The people were concerned for Moses' whereabouts...**

(a) Aaron could have been a great leader, but it's more convenient to appease the people than to quell an uprising.

1. **"When the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain,** the people gathered themselves together to Aaron, and said to him, **"Come, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we don't know what has become of him."** Aaron said to them, "Take off the golden rings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them to me." All the people took off the golden rings which were

in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He received what they handed him, fashioned it with an engraving tool, and **made it a molded calf**. Then they said, "These are your gods, Israel, which brought you up out of the land of Egypt." **When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made a proclamation, and said, "Tomorrow shall be a feast to Yahweh."** They rose up early on the next day, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play." Exodus 32:1-6 WEBUS

- a) Moses had been on the mountain too long, and the people felt impatient and unsure if he'd return.
  - 1) They began to believe that this God of Moses was not expedient.
  - 2) They needed an alternative god to lead them!
  - 3) Aaron didn't even try to redirect their bad thinking; he went right to appeasement.
  - 4) Aaron told the complainers to bring him all their gold and that he'd make them a cow god!
  - 5) They instantly replaced Yahweh with a new god of Israel to whom they gave credit as their deliverer from Egypt.

- 6) Aaron liked what he saw and he felt relieved: the people's anxiety over Moses's "missing in action" status was completely assuaged.
  - 7) Aaron then did the unthinkable: He mixed cow god worship with the worship of Yahweh. He built an altar to the new cow god and proclaimed that *"The next day would be a feast to Yahweh."*
  - 8) And that's what they did; they had a big party and made sacrifices to the new dynamic duo—Cow-weh and Yah-weh.
2. "Yahweh spoke to Moses, "Go, get down; for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves! They have turned away quickly out of the way which I commanded them. **They have made themselves a molded calf, and have worshiped it, and have sacrificed to it,** and said, 'These are your gods, Israel, which brought you up out of the land of Egypt.'" Yahweh said to Moses, "I have seen these people, and behold, they are a stiff-necked people. Now therefore leave me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them, and that I

may consume them; and I will make of you a great nation.'" Exodus 32:7-10 WEBUS

- a) Yahweh informed Moses of the present debacle!
  - 1) The people had become corrupt and fashioned a cow god for themselves.
  - 2) They've worshiped it, sacrificed to it, and given it credit for everything I did for them in Egypt.
  - 3) They are beyond stubborn; step aside as I destroy them; I'll just start over with you, Moses.

3. **"Moses said to Aaron, "What did these people do to you, that you have brought a great sin on them?"**

Aaron said, "Don't let the anger of my Lord grow hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil. For they said to me, '**Make us gods, which shall go before us.** As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, **we don't know what has become of him.**' I said to them, '**Whoever has any gold, let them take it off.**' So they gave it to me; and **I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf.**"

Exodus 32:21-24 WEBUS

- a) Unfortunately, Moses was so shocked by what Aaron had orchestrated that he must consider the possibility that Aaron actually hated God's people.

Aaron then revealed to what depth he would descend to **deflect** from and **defend** his **unacceptable godless behavior**. He both blamed the people for what was **his fault** and he interceded for them at the same time. He **minimized the significance** of his own **disobedience** by **justifying** how the people were worried about Moses and how they asked for a new god. All Aaron did was collect some gold, toss it in a fire, and poof... out popped the cow god. Why would Moses or Yahweh be **offended** by that?

- 1) **Deflect and Defend:** *"It was not my fault; the people were worried and had needs."*
- 2) **Godless behavior:** *"It's too difficult to lead worried and impatient people; it's much easier to capitulate to their demands."*
- 3) **Lessened significance:** *"It's not so much that I was disobedient and strayed off course, as much as it was what the people demanded that contributed to my erroneous behavior."*
- 4) **Justification:** *"The people needed a god to worship, and Yahweh was nowhere to be found."*

5) **Offenses:** *“We didn’t really replace Yahweh; we just upgraded His image with a little “bovine helper god.” It’s not that offensive, is it?”*

(b) Aaron...

1. ...had to do something to assuage the people. What’s so wrong that he would create a giant golden idol? Moses was missing, and the people had needs. Abandoning his assignment and offending Yahweh was far less important than keeping the people satisfied. And look, all he did was toss a bunch of gold in a fire; the calf popped out all on its own!
  - a) *“Each man’s work **will be revealed**...”* 1 Cor. 3:13
  - b) *“There is **nothing hidden** that will not be known.”* Luke 12:2
  - c) *“All things are open before the eyes of Him **to whom we must give an account**.”* Heb. 4:12-13

## **B. Practice Responsibility**

(1) **Introduction:** accountability is king!

(a) **Practice Responsibility:** Be **accountable for your own** actions and choices; and **hold others accountable for their** actions and choices.

1. “Brothers, even if a man is caught in some fault, **you who are spiritual must restore such a one** in a spirit

of gentleness, looking to yourself so that you also aren't tempted. **Bear one another's burdens**, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For **if a man thinks himself to be something** when he is nothing, **he deceives himself.**" Galatians 6:1-3 WEBUS

- a) You have a role to play...
  - 1) You are charged with gently restoring others who are caught in their sins.
  - 2) To bear another's burdens is how you love others like Christ. "*Owe no one anything, except to **love one another**; for he who loves his neighbor **has fulfilled the law.***" Romans 13:8
  - 3) To do so, you must first be spiritually mature, not living in hypocrisy, not participating in the wrong behaviors you intend to **hold others accountable for.**

2. "But **let each man examine his own work**, and then he will have reason to boast in himself, and not in someone else. For **each man will bear his own burden.**" Galatians 6:4-5 WEBUS

- a) First, hold yourself accountable before you attempt to hold others accountable!
  - 1) Only then can you claim the authority to do so.

- 2) It is your responsibility to do this before you examine anyone else.
3. “But **let him who is taught** in the word **share** all good things with him who teaches. Don’t be deceived. God is not mocked, for **whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.**” Galatians 6:6-7 WEBUS
  - a) In return, those who are restored should demonstrate their gratitude to those who helped them.
    - 1) And be careful on both sides of this equation because God will not be trifled with.
    - 2) Those helping better be authentic!
    - 3) Those being helped better be grateful!

## **(2) Responsibility: King David, Bathsheba, and Uriah...**

- (a) David was ultimately held accountable for the choices he made because Nathan held him accountable.
  1. “At the return of the year, at the time when kings go out, David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem. At evening, **David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king’s house. From the roof, he saw a woman bathing**, and the woman was very beautiful

to look at. **David sent and inquired after the woman.** One said, **“Isn’t this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, Uriah the Hittite’s wife?”** David **sent messengers, and took her;** and she came in to him, and **he lay with her** (for she was purified from her uncleanness); and she returned to her house. The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, and said, **“I am with child.”**” 2 Samuel 11:1-5 WEBUS

- a) David was in the wrong place at the wrong time, and that led to wrong choices!
  - 1) He spotted a beautiful woman bathing on the roof because he was in his palace, instead of being away at war with his soldiers.
  - 2) His next mistake is that instead of turning his attention elsewhere, he “inquires about her.”
  - 3) He finds she is married and to whom, and then he makes his next mistake; “he sends for her.”
  - 4) Then he makes yet another mistake; “he has sex with her.”
  - 5) Then he discovers that she got pregnant—which leads to a cascade of additional and more egregious mistakes.

2. "David sent to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite."  
Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah had come to him, David asked him how Joab did, and how the people fared, and how the war prospered. **David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet."** Uriah departed out of the king's house, and a gift from the king was sent after him. **But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house** with all the servants of his Lord, and didn't go down to his house. When they had told David, saying, "Uriah didn't go down to his house," David said to Uriah, **"Haven't you come from a journey? Why didn't you go down to your house?"** Uriah said to David, "The ark, Israel, and Judah, are staying in tents; and my Lord Joab and the servants of my Lord are encamped in the open field. **Shall I then go into my house to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife?** As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing!" 2 Samuel

11:6-11 WEBUS

- a) David believes he must hide his sin, so he hatches a plan...
  - 1) In his mind, it's a simple fix: Send his general (Joab) to fetch Bathsheba's husband (Uriah).

- 2) Invite him to the palace for some small talk about the war, and then suggest he go visit his wife for some “activities.” And like magic, she “gets pregnant,” and David is off the hook.
  - 3) But Uriah has too much integrity to enjoy the comforts of home and the warmth of his wife, while his fellow soldiers are suffering on the battlefield.
3. “David said to Uriah, “Stay here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart.” So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day and the next day. When David had called him, he ate and drank before him; and he made him drunk. **At evening, he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his Lord, but didn’t go down to his house.** In the morning, David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. He wrote in the letter, saying, **“Send Uriah to the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck and die.”**” 2 Samuel 11:12-15

WEBUS

- a) So, David invites him back for some cocktails the next day; certainly if he gets Uriah drunk, his

defenses will be lowered, and he will wind up in bed with his wife.

1) Unfortunately for David, Uriah just has too much integrity, so David must resort to a third option—one that is absolutely heinous.

2) He writes a letter to Joab instructing him to place Uriah at the frontline during the fiercest time of the battle, and then to pull back all his support so that he will be killed.

4. “When Joab kept watch on the city, **he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew that valiant men were**. The men of the city went out and fought with Joab. Some of the people fell, even of David’s servants; and **Uriah the Hittite died also**. Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war; and he commanded the messenger, saying, “When you have finished telling all the things concerning the war to the king, it shall be that, if the king’s wrath arise, and he asks you, ‘Why did you go so near to the city to fight? Didn’t you know that they would shoot from the wall? Who struck Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Didn’t a woman cast an upper millstone on him from the wall, so that he died at

Thebez? Why did you go so near the wall?' then you shall say, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is also dead.'"" 2 Samuel 11:16-21 WEBUS

a) Joab complied with David's orders.

1) And Uriah died just as David hoped he would!

2) A messenger was sent to inform David.

5. "So the messenger went, and came and showed David all that Joab had sent him for. The messenger said to David, "The men prevailed against us, and came out to us into the field; and we were on them even to the entrance of the gate. The shooters shot at your servants from off the wall; and some of the king's servants are dead, **and your servant Uriah the Hittite is also dead.**" Then David said to the messenger, "**Tell Joab, 'Don't let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another.** Make your battle stronger against the city, and overthrow it.' Encourage him." 2 Samuel 11:22-25 WEBUS

a) The messenger informed David that Uriah was dead.

- 1) Then David sent the messenger back to Joab with a message designed to excuse him of his guilt for participating in David's crime.
  - 2) *"You are not responsible for Uriah's death. Men die in war every day, and this is no different."*
  - 3) And then it was back to business as usual for David (or so he thought!).
6. **"When Uriah's wife heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. When the mourning was past, David sent and took her home to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased Yahweh."** 2 Samuel 11:26-27 WEBUS
- a) David allowed Bathsheba to mourn her husband for a bit, and then he took her home as his wife!
    - 1) Thus far, David was completely **unaccountable** for his own actions.
    - 2) He also went out of his way to excuse Joab from any accountability for his choice to participate.
    - 3) Yahweh was NOT pleased with David!
  - (b) David committed atrocities on a catastrophic scale.
    1. He slept with another man's wife, committed adultery, and attempted to cover it up—even to the

point of premeditated murder to hide his sins! When the smoke settled, David proceeded as if nothing had happened.

a) *“When Uriah’s wife heard that Uriah, her husband, was dead, she mourned. When the mourning was past, David took her, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased Yahweh.”*

1) *“If a man is caught in some fault, **you who are spiritual must restore him** in a spirit of gentleness...” Galatians 6:1*

2) *“God is not mocked; **whatever a man sows, that he shall also reap.**” Galatians 6:7*

### **(3) Responsibility: King David and Nathan...**

(a) Nathan wants no part of the cover-up; in fact, for him it’s quite the opposite, so he tells David a story.

1. **“Yahweh sent Nathan to David.** He came to him, and said to him, **“There were two men in one city:** the one rich, and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds, but the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and raised. It grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food, drank of his

own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was like a daughter to him. **A traveler came to the rich man, and he didn't want to take of his own flock** and of his own herd to prepare for the wayfaring man who had come to him, but **took the poor man's lamb** and prepared it for the man who had come to him." 2

Samuel 12:1-4 WEBUS

a) David believes the story is real...

- 1) A rich man with everything takes for himself what little a poor man has, because having everything is not enough.

2. **"David's anger burned hot against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As Yahweh lives, the man who has done this deserves to die!** He must restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing and because he had no pity!" 2 Samuel 12:5-6 WEBUS

a) The idea that a rich man would do such a thing infuriates David.

- 1) He wants the rich man apprehended; he deserves to die!
- 2) Minimally, he must restore what he took from the poor man fourfold.

3) He's about to come face-to-face with that horrible rich man, and also discover that what he stole from the poor man cannot be restored.

3. **“Nathan said to David, “You are the man!** This is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. I gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that would have been too little, I would have added to you many more such things. **Why have you despised Yahweh’s word, to do that which is evil in his sight? You have struck Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have slain** him with the sword of the children of Ammon. Now therefore the sword will never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken Uriah the Hittite’s wife to be your wife.’” 2 Samuel 12:7-10

WEBUS

a) David, you are that man!

1) Yahweh made you king and gave you everything.

- 2) And your actions were wicked, as if you despised all that Yahweh provided and you needed more.
  - 3) You are the king, and you took a common man's wife and had him murdered!
- b) Now you will be held accountable and your sin will be exposed publicly!
- 1) ***"This is what Yahweh says: 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he will lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. For you did this secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.'"*** 2 Samuel 12:11-12

WEBUS

- (b) David takes responsibility for his choices and actions!
1. **"David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against Yahweh." Nathan said to David, "Yahweh also has put away your sin. You will not die. However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to Yahweh's enemies to blaspheme, **the child also who is born to you will surely die.**"** Then Nathan departed to his house. **Yahweh struck the child that**

**Uriah's wife bore to David, and he was very sick. David therefore begged God for the child;** and David **fasted**, and went in and lay all night on the ground. The elders of his house arose beside him, to raise him up from the earth; but he would not, and he didn't eat bread with them. **On the seventh day, the child died.** David's servants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him and he didn't listen to our voice. How will he then harm himself if we tell him that the child is dead?" 2

Samuel 12:13-18 WEBUS

- a) David's eyes open, and he immediately repents...
  - 1) David had done horrible things. He committed adultery, caused other people to sin (Bathsheba and Joab), and had a man murdered.
  - 2) But this speaks perfectly of Yahweh's endless love, mercy, and forgiveness—when there is genuine repentance. (In a moment, we will see the Psalm David wrote about these events, and it will be easy to see that his repentance was authentic.)

- 3) However, God's forgiveness, which lasts into eternity, does not mean there are no consequences on this side of eternity.
  - 4) Think of it as being [Forgiven Yet Liable](#). You can use that link to see a complete sermon on the subject.
  - 5) Even though David prayed, fasted, and pleaded with God, the child conceived via lies, deception, and adultery died as a consequence of David and Bathsheba's sin.
2. "But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David perceived that the child was dead; and David said to his servants, **"Is the child dead?" They said, "He is dead." Then David arose from the earth, and washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothing; and he came into Yahweh's house, and worshiped.** Then he came to his own house; and when he requested, they set bread before him and he ate." 2 Samuel 12:19-20 WEBUS
- a) If you want evidence that David was truly sorry for what he had done, there is none better than this...
    - 1) After his child had died, instead of blaming Yahweh, HE WORSHIPED YAHWEH!

(c) Nathan would not have it! This is the perfect example of holding others accountable for their actions and choices.

1. He was not going to let David get away with it. He exposed David's sins. David was outraged as Nathan unraveled a story about a wealthy man who selfishly appropriated a poor man's possessions, before realizing Nathan's story was about him.

a) *"David's anger burned hot against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As Yahweh lives, the man who has done this deserves to die!"*

2. But, soon after he was told...

a) *"You are that man!"*

1) *"If a man is caught in some fault, **you who are spiritual must restore him** in a spirit of gentleness... **Bear one another's burdens**, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if a man thinks himself to be something when he is nothing, **he deceives himself.**" Galatians 6:1-3*

3. ...he humbled himself and became accountable for his own actions and choices.

a) *David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against Yahweh."*

1) *“Let each man examine his own work... For each man will bear his own burden.”* Galatians 6:4-5

4. And although God forgave him, he certainly paid the price for his sin.

1) *“God is not mocked; whatever a man sows, that he shall also reap.”* Galatians 6:7

#### **(4) Responsibility: King David and Yahweh**

(a) The Psalm of perfect repentance: Quiet your heart and just feel David’s words!

1. **“Have mercy on me, God, according to your loving kindness.** According to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity. Cleanse me from my sin. **For I know my transgressions. My sin is constantly before me. Against you, and you only, I have sinned, and done that which is evil in your sight,** so you may be proved right when you speak, and justified when you judge. **Behold, I was born in iniquity. My mother conceived me in sin. Behold, you desire truth in the inward parts.** You teach me wisdom in the inmost place. **Purify me** with hyssop, and I will be clean. **Wash me,** and I will be whiter

than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness, that the bones which you have broken may rejoice. **Hide your face from my sins**, and blot out all of my iniquities. **Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me.** Don't **throw me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me.** Restore to me the joy of your salvation. **Uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways. Sinners will be converted to you. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed,** O God, the God of my salvation. **My tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.** Lord, open my lips. My mouth will declare your praise. For you don't delight in sacrifice, or else I would give it. You have no pleasure in burnt offering. **The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit.** O God, you will not despise a broken and contrite heart. Do well in your good pleasure to Zion. Build the walls of Jerusalem. Then you will delight in the sacrifices of righteousness, in burnt offerings and in whole burnt offerings. Then they will offer bulls on your altar." Psalms 51:1-19 WEBUS

- a) Being accountable for and acknowledging your own actions and choices...

- 1) Have mercy on me, God... Blot out my transgressions. Wash me... Cleanse me...
  - 2) I know my transgressions...
  - 3) Against You only, have I sinned...
  - 4) I was born in iniquity...
  - 5) You desire truth in my inward parts...
  - 6) Purify me... Wash me... and I will be whiter than snow...
  - 7) Hide Your face from my sins...
  - 8) Create in me a clean heart...
  - 9) Renew a right spirit within me...
  - 10) Don't remove Your presence or Your Spirit...
  - 11) Restore to me the joy of Your salvation.
- b) Then...
- 1) I will teach other transgressors Your ways...
  - 2) Sinners will be converted to You...
  - 3) I will sing aloud of Your righteousness...
  - 4) My mouth will declare Your praise...
- c) Yahweh does not delight in sacrifice, or else I would give it.
- 1) The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit—a broken and contrite heart.

2) Yahweh delights in the sacrifices it takes to be righteous.

(b) David was authentically repentant for what he had done.

1. And, he took full responsibility for his actions and choices. He admitted his sin and asked for Yahweh's forgiveness.

a) *"Cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions. My sin is constantly before me. Against You, Yahweh, and You only, I have sinned, and done that which is evil in Your sight."*

2. It is why after all he had done, this can be said about him!

a) "He raised up David to be their king, to whom he also testified, **'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after my heart, who will do all my will.'**"

Acts 13:22 WEBUS

1) *"For if a man thinks himself to be something when he is nothing, **he deceives himself.**"*

Galatians 6:3

2) ***"Let each man examine his own work... For each man will bear his own burden."*** Galatians

6:4-5

3) *“God is not mocked; **whatever a man sows, that he shall also reap.**”* Galatians 6:7

## **(5) Responsibility: King David and God’s Law**

(a) A king knows...

1. **“It shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write himself a copy of this law in a book, out of that which is before the Levitical priests. It shall be with him, and he shall read from it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear Yahweh his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them; that his heart not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he not turn away from the commandment to the right hand, or to the left, to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children, in the middle of Israel.”** Deuteronomy 17:18-20 WEBUS

a) There is only ONE LAW intended to be used to govern God’s people—God’s Law!

1) Every king was commanded to write an entire copy of the Torah in his own hand and to read from it EVERY DAY of his life.

b) Why?

1) To learn to fear Yahweh as his God.

- 2) To actually remember every word and obey it.
  - 3) So he does not become prideful.
  - 4) So he never strays from God's commandments.
  - 5) So he may have a long, prosperous reign.
- c) David later wrote, what we know today as Psalm 119, extolling the virtues of Yahweh's Law. It's 176 verses magnify God's law as the fibers in the fabric on which creation is woven and by which humans shall be governed.

1) *"Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who **walk according to Yahweh's law**. Blessed are those who **keep his statutes**, who seek him with **their whole heart**. Yes, **they do nothing wrong**. They **walk in his ways**." Psalms 119:1-3*

WEBUS

2) *"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. With my whole heart I have sought you. **Don't let me wander from your commandments**. I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." Psalms 119:9-11* WEBUS

- d) God's laws are the fibers in the fabric on which creation is woven and by which humans shall be governed. NOTHING HAS CHANGED!
- 1) *"Indeed you bear the name of a Jew, **rest on the law, glory in God, know his will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law,**"* Romans 2:17-18 WEBUS
  - 2) *"Everyone who sins also commits lawlessness. **Sin is lawlessness.**"* 1 John 3:4 WEBUS
- (b) Peer deeply, and you will discover that when God's law has supremacy, God's will is being fulfilled! *"I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after my heart, **who will do all my will.**"* Acts 13:22
1. Yahweh's will IN ACTION!
    - a) "The book of **the genealogy of Jesus Christ**, the son of David, the son of Abraham." Matthew 1:1  
WEBUS
    - 1) *"Abraham became the father of Isaac. Isaac became the father of Jacob. Jacob became the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar. Perez became the father of Hezron. Hezron became the father of Ram. Ram became the father of*

*Amminadab. Amminadab became the father of Nahshon. Nahshon became the father of Salmon. Salmon became the father of Boaz by Rahab. Boaz became the father of Obed by Ruth. **Obed became the father of Jesse.***

Matthew 1:2-5 WEBUS

- b) What comes next is utterly magnificent, and it takes us all the way back to the history of David, Bathsheba, and Uriah. Uriah had died without an heir—David had him murdered before he could father a son to carry his name. But God’s will would not be thwarted. Do you remember earlier in the story about Judah, how he attempted to withhold his youngest son from fulfilling his duty to give his brother’s widow a son, according to the law? Here again is that law to refresh your memory.
- 1) *“If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the dead shall not be married outside to a stranger. **Her husband’s brother shall go in to her, and take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband’s brother to her.** It shall be that **the firstborn***

***whom she bears shall succeed in the name of his brother who is dead, that his name not be blotted out of Israel.***” Deuteronomy 25:5-6

WEBUS

- c) A man’s name would be blotted out if he had no son to carry it forward. So, the law instructs a brother to fulfill his duty to his brother’s widow, by giving her a son to preserve her deceased husband’s (his brother’s) name. Uriah had no son—his name would have been lost—except for God’s law! God, in His providence, and by His will, substituted David as Uriah’s brother—and Uriah’s name is remembered in the most extraordinary way—in the lineage of the Messiah!

- 1) *“Jesse became the father of King David. David the king became the father of Solomon **by her who had been Uriah’s wife.**”* Matthew 1:6

WEBUS

- (c) David had returned to his kingly roots... ***“I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after my heart, who will do all my will.”*** Acts 13:22

1. Yahweh instituted His law through David, who was substituted as if he were Uriah’s brother...

- a) *“When he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write himself a copy of this law. It shall be with him, and he shall read from it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear Yahweh, to keep all the words of this law, to do them; that he may prolong his days in his kingdom.”*
2. ...because David loved Yahweh’s laws...
  - a) *“Don’t let me wander from your commandments. I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.”*
3. It was the institution of Yahweh’s law by God’s supernatural hand that restored right order for David, the man after Yahweh’s heart...
  - a) *“Perform the duty of a husband’s brother; the firstborn whom she bears shall succeed in the name of his brother who is dead, that his name not be blotted out,”*
4. ...and for Uriah...
  - a) *“Jesse became the father of King David. David the king became the father of Solomon by her who had **been Uriah’s wife.**”*
5. Uriah’s name, which could have easily been blotted out because he died without a son, was not forgotten.

It appears in the royal line of King David **{from Judah}**. David prophetically stood in as Uriah's brother and fulfilled his duty in the Law of the Levirate Marriage. Uriah's name is immortalized through King David, in the lineage of Y'shua—the King of all kings.

- a) The outcome in eternity is so much greater than Uriah could have ever planned for himself!
  - 1) ***“Better is the end of a thing than its beginning. The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.”*** Ecclesiastes 7:8 WEBUS
- b) And all because God's laws are the fibers in the fabric on which creation is woven and by which humans shall be governed. AND NOTHING HAS CHANGED!
  - 1) ***“If a man is caught in some fault, **you who are spiritual must restore him** in a spirit of gentleness...”*** Galatians 6:1
  - 2) ***“Let each man examine his own work... For each man will bear his own burden.”*** Galatians 6:4-5
  - 3) ***“God is not mocked; **whatever a man sows, that he shall also reap.**”*** Galatians 6:7

c) ***“This is the end of the matter. All has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it is good, or whether it is evil.”***

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 WEBUS

**Prayer: I SURRENDER EXCUSES (Father, I will cease from rationalizing and from offering reasons for my or another’s wrongful deeds, unacceptable behavior, or lack of follow-through. I will no longer seek to defend or justify my disobedience, faults, offenses, and ungodly beliefs—or attempt to lessen their significance, as everything is known by You, oh Yahweh.) I WILL PRACTICE RESPONSIBILITY (Today, I become accountable for my own actions and choices; and I will hold others accountable for their actions and choices as well.)**

## **ASSIGNMENT #15**

### **1. Pray about and meditate on these Scriptures:**

A. ***“For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart. There is no***

*creature that is hidden from his sight, but **all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.***” Hebrews 4:12-13 WEBUS

B. *“But there is **nothing covered up that will not be revealed,** nor hidden that will not be known.”* Luke 12:2 WEBUS

C. *“For **God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it is good, or whether it is evil.**”*  
Ecclesiastes 12:14 WEBUS

D. *“For **no one can lay any other foundation than that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ.** But if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, **each man’s work will be revealed. For the Day will declare it, because it is revealed in fire;** and the fire itself will test what sort of work each man’s work is.”* 1 Corinthians 3:11-13 WEBUS

E. *“For the time has come for **judgment** to begin with the household of God. If it **begins first with us,** what will happen to those who don’t obey the Good News of God?”* 1 Peter 4:17 WEBUS

2. **Surrender Excuses:** *“**God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing,** whether it is good, or whether it is evil.”* Ecclesiastes 12:14

A. Search your heart humbly and honestly.

- 1) Do you confess that you sometimes rationalize and offer reasons for your or another's wrongful deeds, unacceptable behavior, or lack of follow-through?
- 2) Will you cease from defending or justifying your disobedience, faults, offenses, and ungodly beliefs—or any attempts to lessen their significance?
- 3) Please review your answer to each question and explain your strategy to address it.
- 4) Who will hold you accountable to surrender making excuses?

3. **Practice Responsibility:** *“But **let each man examine his own work**, and then he will have reason to boast in himself, and not in someone else. For **each man will bear his own burden.**”*

Galatians 6:4-5

- A. Are you prepared to live a life of taking responsibility?
- 1) Are you ready to become accountable for your own actions and choices?
  - 2) Are you committed to holding others accountable for their actions and choices as well?
  - 3) Please review your answer to each question and explain your strategy to address it.
  - 4) Who will hold you accountable to practice taking responsibility?