

**Title:** Freedom From Failure

**Subtitle:** David moves through and on from his failure with another man's wife

**Scripture:** 2 Samuel 12:13-24 ESV

**Fill in the Blank:** I will be **FREE** from my **FAILURE**

**Speaker:** Judah Sanders

Well we are in the final week of our mini series walking through the Power of Freedom. I hope it has blessed you the way it has blessed me and I honor our Senior Pastor for allowing me to shape this series. I started out this series 2 weeks ago by talking about finding freedom from what has been done to us, then last week Pastor Jake Taylor from the Father's House talked about Freedom from anxiety and depression, and so, so far in this series we have been talking a lot about Freedom from things that happened TO us but what about those of us who need freedom from things done BY us? What about those of us who need Freedom from what we've done?" Most of us, if we're really honest, we've got some regret we're carrying with us.

And Today my heart is really burdened for that group of people, my heart is burdened for those of us who have pitched our tents, laid our foundations and built our homes in the lands of regret. Many of us look back over our lives and realize that in both large and small ways, we have dropped the ball. We have made choices, decisions, and mistakes that have spawned consequences so catastrophic, so disastrous, so painful that in response we have chosen to wear our shame and guilt as a garment. And everywhere we go, every room we walk into, we walk into it wearing the humiliation of what we've done. We let it ride in the car with us, climb into our bed at night, we let it skew our perception of our worth and deny

ourselves the things we need because we feel the need to punish ourselves for what we've done. And its funny how comfortable we can get in bondage. And we say "Why is it so bad that I feel guilty? Why should I care about being free from these feelings, especially when I'm so used to them? How are they sabotaging me or otherwise hurting me? Does it matter if I am weighed down by guilt, shame and regret? It does to Jesus. Because after He had (expound Jesus suffering on cross), John 19:30a: He said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. And he meant it. And some of us, burdened by the weight of our failures have been living lives that argue with what Jesus said, and our internal monologue argues "It's not finished" "What I did was so bad, is so bad, there is more suffering that needs to be had, more blood that needs to be shed and we have spent far too long, trying our hardest to climb up onto the the tree and nail ourselves to the cross too and we are in bondage, chained to what we've done.

Your fill in the blank is going to be prophetic, meaning we are going to say something that may not be true yet, but we are going to declare it like its true. It may not be where you are right now but I believe it's where you will be one day. It's really easy, say it with me.

**I WILL BE FREE FROM MY FAILURES.**

**(EXPOUND Optional)**

(Judah's failure caring for Brother (Khalil) story) [PHOTO SHOWN HERE]

And so I know what it is to be gripped by the consequences of what you have done or failed to do. And sometimes it's not even that you've done an explicitly bad or wrong or sinful thing, sometimes it's just the reality that a choice you made had a negative consequence. And I am walking out my own journey of freedom from it and I hope that maybe some of the things that the Lord has taught me might be helpful to you, that perhaps instead of being coated in disgrace you can be covered in blood. Because the blood washes (EXPOUND)

Y'all know I like to read a lot of Scripture when I preach so fasten your seat belts. We're going to look at a story of a man recovering from his failure and the story is going to show us several things we can do to gain freedom from what we've done."

**2 Samuel 12:13-25 Pg # \_\_\_\_\_**

**13 Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."**

**Nathan replied, "The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. 14 But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the Lord, the son born to you will die."**

**15 After Nathan had gone home, the Lord struck the child that Uriah's wife had borne to David, and he became ill. 16 David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and spent the nights lying in sackcloth on the ground. 17 The elders of his household stood beside him to get**

him up from the ground, but he refused, and he would not eat any food with them.

18 On the seventh day the child died. David's attendants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they thought, "While the child was still living, he wouldn't listen to us when we spoke to him. How can we now tell him the child is dead? He may do something desperate."

19 David noticed that his attendants were whispering among themselves, and he realized the child was dead. "Is the child dead?" he asked.

"Yes," they replied, "he is dead."

20 Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate.

21 His attendants asked him, "Why are you acting this way? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat!"

22 He answered, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, 'Who knows? The Lord may be gracious to me and let the child live.' 23 But now that he is dead, why should I go on fasting?"

**Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.”**

**24 Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and made love to her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The Lord loved him; 25 and because the Lord loved him, he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah.**

The blessing of reading about David's life is that he is one of the few characters in the Bible that we get to travel with from his very early days till the day he dies. Most people in the bible we meet them in one season and maybe we journey with them through a season or two. We meet Peter as a man already invested in his career, scholars say by the time he met Jesus he had been married and likely had buried his wife already, that is a very specific season to meet someone in. So we don't have a lot of information about the experiences of the boy Peter. So we have a limited window into Peter's life. But David, we meet as a young boy, we meet him in the fields as Jesse's youngest son, we meet him as the servant with no clue what he would become (BRIEF EXPOUND-David's journey).

And the benefit of seeing a life as a whole, and not just a season of life, is it reminds us of the complexity of people. We get to see that David was complex. David had an intersectional identity comprised of many things. David was the type that (EXPOUND dichotomy of David)

And one of the things that I think is important to acknowledge about ourselves and others is that people are complex. They are many things.

And too often we don't hold space for people or ourselves to be many things. We want folks, especially ourselves to be one thing, all the time. We want simplicity because simplicity is easy but it is not reality. Especially in the lens of a not simple, sin tainted world. I would love to tell you that my countenance is always Christ-like, and Pastoral, and I'm always operating in my gift of wisdom, but that's not true. (Doctors office visit Story) "You are not your worst moment.

So people are complex. And by the time we get to the part of David's story that we read today we are seeing that in full bloom. (Quick recap of Bathsheba's & David's Story)

And so now the potential of the weight and guilt and shame of all that he has done has the propensity to crush David, but I think David models for us how we move through it and become free of it.

**19 David noticed that his attendants were whispering among themselves, and he realized the child was dead. "Is the child dead?" he asked.**

**"Yes," they replied, "he is dead."**

## ACCEPTANCE & RESPONSIBILITY

We start by accepting and taking responsibility for the consequences of our actions (EXPOUND) We don't fight the consequences or even run from the consequences, we accept them. The baby got sick as a direct

consequence of what David did. And what's powerful is we can assume that the baby died after David had repented to the Lord. If you read the earlier verse it talks about how David prayed and fasted about the situation, and still the baby died. There were consequences.

We have to avoid denial or minimizing the impact our actions may have had on others. Denial and defensiveness never actually help.

Accept that it happened and note how you contributed.

And what I want to be clear about is acceptance and responsibility is NOT Self-flagellation. It's not self punishment. What's the difference?

Accepting responsibility means acknowledging and owning up to the fact that you played a role in a particular outcome. It is you recognizing your part in creating the circumstances and being accountable for your actions. Accepting responsibility is about personal growth, learning from mistakes, and making amends if necessary and possible.

On the other hand, self-punishment is a negative and often self-destructive response to the consequences of one's actions. It involves excessively blaming oneself (accepting responsibility is noticing your role and participation—blame is attaching the outcome to your identity), engaging in harsh self-criticism—especially with blanket brushstroke language (You're a horrible Father/mother/husband, friend etc.) , or inflicting punishment as a way of trying to atone for the mistakes made. You can make amends but you cannot atone. If you could atone there would be no need for Jesus and the Cross. Self-punishment can manifest in various forms, like

self-isolation, self-harm, deprivation or sabotaging your own happiness and well-being. Making yourself miserable does not justify anything.

(EXPOUND Optional)

While accepting responsibility is a healthy and constructive response, self-punishment is generally unhealthy and counterproductive.

Self-punishment can perpetuate negative emotions, hinder personal growth, and hinder the process of making peace with the consequences of one's actions.

And a tool you are going to need in order to practice acceptance and responsibility well is Self Compassion.

And Self Compassion involves bringing in kindness, gentleness, understanding and care in the face of your shortcomings.

- Acknowledge your own pain: Validate the emotions you're experiencing as a result of your actions.
- Practicing Self Kindness: Offer yourself words of encouragement

–"I dOnTt hAvE aNy wOrDs oF eNcOuRaGiNg wOrDs fOr mYsELf jUdAh"–

You have a Bible! Where your God says stuff like “*My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.*”

You have a Bible. Where your God says stuff like “*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”*

You have a Bible which says *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

Acceptance and Responsibility using SELF COMPASSION.

Also using SELF CARE

What does David immediately do after accepting what has happened? He starts taking care of himself

**20 Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, , he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate.**

Notice it is a holistic. He takes care of himself physically, emotionally and spiritually. He bathes, and puts on lotion and changes his clothes. And in this context it is literally what he did, but might we also consider this as a metaphor for changing some of the ways that you used to be that caused the damage. SELF REFLECT, LEARN & CHANGE. Wash it off, put on something else, a different way of communicating, of parenting, be a better grandparent than you were a parent, be a different kind of friend, change the way respond in conflict, organize your life so you can show up for people, change the habits that lead to the sin, reconsider the lifestyle you lead and lead a different one. But get up off the ground, wash, and put on something different. And it will help you find freedom from what you’ve done when you can say “I’ve made some errors, but I’m not on the ground

anymore, and I don't smell how i used to smell, I'm not wearing what I used to wear, I'm a better parent now, Im better husband now, I'm a better friend now, I'm more balanced now, I'm more healthy now, I have some more tools now, I've grown now. And the weight of guilt doesn't sit on me the same way because I have learned now”

What have you learned from your failures? I heard a quote once that said “I never lose, I either win or I learn”

After acceptance and responsibility, David controlled what he could, which was himself. He could not control what happened with the baby, he couldn't control what people thought of him for it, but he could control his practice of self care and change. And what I want you to notice is that he didn't do it alone.

**20 Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, , he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped.**

GET IN GOD'S FACE ABOUT IT. And I know this seems fairly obvious in a church and among church people, but I am always surprised in myself with how many things I try to do or think about or process without God. I can lean into this really binary way of thinking about my life where I say “This is my stuff to deal with and this is God's stuff to deal with and when we are both done we will come back together and debrief.” There is not “God's stuff and My stuff” it's ALL God's stuff. And I'll need God to help me with every single piece. Get in his face about it!

And practice gratitude, even in grief. You can grieve and be grateful! The text says David went to church and worshiped. His baby had died but he worshiped. He had done tremendous evil but he worshiped God anyway. His wife Bathsheba was grieving, maybe even blaming him but he worshiped God anyway. And it shows that David understood that worship is not a feeling, it's an action. Worship is not to be attached to a scenario, it's to be attached to a person. Get in God's Face. (EXPOUND "Lord it's been hard but you've been good...Lord I have failed, but you have not...") Get in God's face. A huge failure is not the time to run from God. Its not the time to avoid church. Its not the time to avoid prayer. Its not the time to avoid His Word. It's the time to add more of all of that. Come to both services, spend extra time in prayer and extra time in your Word. That is how you get in God's face.

And David didn't just walk through this with God but also with people.

**20 Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, , he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate.**

It's the "at his request part" for me. He asked for help. He asked for support. He allowed them to serve him. Some of us are so determined to do the hardest parts of life alone. And you are not meant to. And that's the real danger of shame, shame induces isolation

The bible says “*For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ*” and we think about that scripture, we often think about it in a disassociated kind of way. We think it means I am not ashamed to say I'm a Christian or to say I believe in Jesus and I believe the Gospel. But to say “I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ” has to mean “I am not ashamed of the fact I NEED the Gospel of Jesus Christ” that “I am not ashamed to say I'm so broken, I'm so needy, I'm so wounded, I got so many issues, I got so many problems, I failed so many times, I dont think right, I dont act right and the only way to fix it was for God Godself to come down and take my place, and take my punishment, and give me grace, heal my body, restore my mind, and fix my heart and transform soul and SAVE ME!” “And God also used people in my journey, I needed some people to come alongside and feed me, and wash my feet, and encourage me, and remind me of what is true and help me with practical tools so that I could grow through what I did and come out on the other side of it whole. And when you open up your shame to others, you see that you're:

1. Not alone—you see the common humanity. Sometimes you need to be reminded that you're not the only person who has failed in your area of failure.
2. You get support that you need
3. You get accountability—(Don't let accountability scare you—it protects you)

This was a ministry to David's own servants. They asked him, why are you moving through this circumstance in this way?" And I love David's response, because it's a response of surrender. David said in the New Judah Dwight Translation “I can't change what happened but I can change

what will happen now” When David had done his own work, his own care, he could provide it for someone else.

**24 Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and made love to her.**

Now if you're not familiar with the story, you might be confused like “Wait whose wife is it?” (explain that David married Bathsheba legally after Uriah died and this was an honorable act because he had left her with no husband in killing Uriah and therefore no covering). But this is where you see David has changed. See the first time, he sent her for, and took what he wanted

**2 Samuel 11:4**

**4 So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her.**

But David said I'll do something different this time. He went to her, and he comforted her. He didn't approach it focused on what he could gain but on what he could give. And this time it doesn't say that he simply lay with her, but it says he made love to her. So his behavior is different, his motivations are different and therefore the outcome is different.

And what we see is one of the ways we get out from under the burden of failure is to try to make Amends. We don't know the composition of the conversation that David had with Bathsheba when he went to her after the baby died, but I bet you it was some form of “I'm Sorry”

Now I know this whole vers is a bit icky, The whole "hey sorry about our dead son but let's get busy" concept is a little weird for us in 2023. Just keep in mind eventhough its one verse, we dont know how much time has passed in all of this (EXPOUND). I acknowledge that, but the point I want to make is that **some of us are under the weight of failure because we haven't tried to make amends yet.** And there are a lot of reasons why we haven't. Some of us have made the assumption that it won't be received (EXPOUND) but you are not responsible for the reception, you are responsible for the apology.

**MAKE AMENDS.** At least attempt to. Your failure is worth your try.

Some of us have not tried yet because we're scared, we know it will be hard and painful and perhaps long. What I want you to know is you may be scared, do it away. You don't have to ask your emotions for permission to move forward. You can deal with hard and painful and long because you're already doing it. It's *already* been painful, it's *already* been hard, it's *already* been long. And you have the Holy Spirit. A fruit of the spirit is long-suffering. Jesus hung on a cross, it wasn't a soft cross it was hard, Jesus hung on a cross and it was painful, Jesus hung on a cross for a longtime and he did it to make amends for something he didn't even do. Jesus said *"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, (John 14:12)*

You can deal with hard, painful and long. In Phillipians Paul talks about all the ups and downs of his experiences and then he says *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil 4:13)*. This verse is often decontextualized and it doesn't mean that I can do anything I want to do but

it does mean I can do anything that God has called me to do through Christ. And God has called you to be a reconciler, how do we know? Because He has called you to be like Jesus. Go make amends. Jesus said in Matthew *“Leave your gift at the altar and go be reconciled. (Math 5:24)* Go make amends. There is so much power in the two words “Im Sorry” (EXPOUND)

**24 Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her, and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. And the LORD loved him**

And what this means is that navigating our own failures well can determine whether or not we repeat cycles or break cycles. That if we navigate our failures and shortcomings well, we can produce greater outcomes. I just imagine that David was far more careful with how he navigated women and raising his son because of his failure in the past and what we know is that for you it was failure, for God it was curriculum. For you it was a tragedy, for God it was testimony. Solomon would go on to be known as a man of great wisdom. Who did you teach him that wisdom? His Daddy and taught him out of his failures. *[Rayon comes to underscore on keys]*

So the way we get freedom from failure is:

- 1.) Accept it and accept responsibility for it
- 2.) Practice Self Compassion, Self Reflection and Self Care
- 3.) Learn From It

- 4.) Change From It
- 5.) Get in God's face about it-practicing gratitude in the grief
- 6.) Get Support Through it
- 7.) Go make amends

PRAYER (*Rayon underscores*—Have people stand who are carrying guilt and shame stand)