

Who Moved?

1 Samuel 12:24

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1st Samuel 12:24 - Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you

Story of Mrs. B – “Just who do you think you are?”

Objective:

1. I want to take a look at how we can move away from God

Maybe someone’s just confronted you with your sin!

Or maybe you wake up one morning and realize that you’re about to go over the cliff!

Or maybe you did go over the cliff and you’ve totaled your car!

2. How did we get there?

3. Once confronted or we realize our sin – What do we do now?

Examples of how far we’ve fallen/slipped:

- Your husband and you are fighting all the time at home. You met a male co-worker who’s showering you with attention. You’ve been out with him for drinks after work and you’re taken by him. You’re about to step into a full-blown affair . . . What are you going to do?
- You grew up in a Christian home. You walked away from the Lord and made all the wrong decisions. You were married and divorced young. Met a gal. Moved in together. Had a child. She bailed on the relationship. You’re devastated. You’re raising your daughter alone. Something’s missing – God! . . . What are you going to do?

How many of you are reading along in the One Year Bible?

All of these accounts that we are going to look at came out of our recent One Year Bible reading.

These accounts demonstrate how far God’s people Israel had departed from what God had intended for them.

We’ll also see what their response was when confronted with their sin.

It doesn’t escape me that all 3 of these accounts involve a member of the clergy!

(A Levite, a family of priests and the Pharisees.)

Judges 19 – The story of the Levite, his concubine and his travels to Gibeah

19 And it came to pass in those days, when *there was* no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite staying in the remote mountains of Ephraim. He took for himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah. ² But his concubine played the harlot against him, and went away from him to her father's house at Bethlehem in Judah, and was there four whole months. ³ Then her husband arose and went after her, to speak kindly to her *and* bring her back, having his servant and a couple of donkeys with him. So she brought him into her father's house; and when the father of the young woman saw him, he was glad to meet him. ⁴ Now his father-in-law, the young woman's father, detained him; and he stayed with him three days. So they ate and drank and lodged there.

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¹⁰ However, the man was not willing to spend that night; so he rose and departed, and came opposite Jebus (that *is*, Jerusalem). With him were the two saddled donkeys; his concubine was also with him. ¹¹ They *were* near Jebus, and the day was far spent; and the servant said to his master, "Come, please, and let us turn aside into this city of the Jebusites and lodge in it."

¹² But his master said to him, "We will not turn aside here into a city of foreigners, who *are* not of the children of Israel; we will go on to Gibeah."

The Levite is thinking that **he can't risk their safety** by staying in a city of foreigners. After all what might they do? So they must travel further to Gibeah – a town of Benjaminites.

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So they go on to Gibeah. But they **don't have a place to stay**. They were hanging out in the open square area when **a man from his own hometown in Ephraim** sees him and invites him to his house for the night.

²⁰ And the old man said, "Peace *be* with you! However, *let* all your needs *be* my responsibility; **only do not spend the night in the open square.**" ²¹ So he brought him into his house, and gave fodder to the donkeys. And they washed their feet, and ate and drank.

²² As they were enjoying themselves, suddenly certain men of the city, perverted men, surrounded the house *and* beat on the door. They spoke to the master of the house, the old man, saying, "Bring out the man who came to your house, that we may know him *carnally!*"

²³ But the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, "No, my brethren! I beg you, do not act so wickedly! Seeing this man has come into my house, do not commit this outrage. ²⁴ Look, *here is* my virgin daughter and *the man's* concubine; let me bring them out

now. Humble them, and do with them as you please; but to this man do not do such a vile thing!”²⁵ But the men would not heed him. So the man took his concubine and brought *her* out to them. And they knew her and abused her all night until morning; and when the day began to break, they let her go.

Shocking!!! The Levite thought Gibeah would be safe. Now they’ve been **terrorized!!!**

I can’t imagine the **depravity!** To seek out these guests for homosexual pleasure – to take them by force! As a group!

I’m not sure about the **man offering his virgin daughter** instead or the **Levite giving up his concubine** in his place. But then they abuse her – **literally to death!!!**

The in the morning the Levite goes to leave and sees that she is dead to he puts her on his donkey and takes her home.

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²⁹ When he entered his house he took a knife, laid hold of his concubine, and divided her into twelve pieces, limb by limb, and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel. ³⁰ And so it was that all who saw it said, “No such deed has been done or seen from the day that the children of Israel came up from the land of Egypt until this day. Consider it, confer, and speak up!”

So the Levite cuts her up and sends a piece to each tribe **as a wakeup call!!!**

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Israel does wake up and the tribes gathered together to **confront the tribe of Benjamin** for the wickedness of Gibeah.

Chapter 20: ¹² Then the tribes of Israel sent men through all the tribe of Benjamin, saying, “What *is* this wickedness that has occurred among you? ¹³ Now therefore, deliver up the men, the perverted men who *are* in Gibeah, that we may put them to death and remove the evil from Israel!”

But the children of Benjamin would not listen to the voice of their brethren, the children of Israel. ¹⁴ Instead, the children of Benjamin gathered together from their cities to Gibeah, to go to battle against the children of Israel.

Here we see a **group of Israelites totally out of control.** Committing unspeakable acts.

We see the Levite **giving up his own concubine** instead of defending her. Then he **dismembers her** and sends her out to shock all Israel to act.

We do see that **Israel is awakened** to the extent of the sin of Gibeah.

They want to **make things right with God** and purge Israel of her sin.

We also see Benjamin **willing to go to war to defend their tribe’s sin** – rather than repent.

The result was disaster! In the ensuing battle virtually the entire tribe of Benjamin was wiped out (25,000) – only 600 men survived.

The book of Joshua ends with “. . . and everyone did what was right in their own eyes.”

Eli's sons – They were priests who did not know the Lord

Setting: 1st Samuel starts out with **Hannah petitioning the Lord for a son** because she is childless. God gives her a son. She keeps her vow and presents her son Samuel to the Lord. **Samuel is being raised by Eli the high priest.**

1 Samuel 2:12 – ¹² Now the sons of Eli *were* corrupt; they did not know the Lord. ¹³ And the priests' custom with the people *was that* when any man offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged fleshhook in his hand while the meat was boiling. ¹⁴ Then he would thrust *it* into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; and the priest would take for himself all that the fleshhook brought up. So they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. ¹⁵ Also, before they burned the fat, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who sacrificed, “Give meat for roasting to the priest, for he will not take boiled meat from you, but raw.”

¹⁶ And *if* the man said to him, “They should really burn the fat first; *then* you may take *as much* as your heart desires,” he would then answer him, “*No*, but you must give *it* now; and if not, I will take *it* by force.”

¹⁷ Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the Lord, for men abhorred the offering of the Lord.

They were **desecrating the sacrifices** in the temple for themselves.

Back **in Leviticus** God had given specific instructions about these sacrifices. What parts of the sacrifice were for the priests. In what order things were to be done.

. . .

²² Now Eli was very old; and **he heard everything** his sons did to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

They were sleeping with the women at the temple.

Eli does **talk to his sons** but they didn't stop, he **does not remove them.**

. . .

Then a man of God came to Eli and confronted him

²⁹ Why do you kick at My sacrifice and My offering which I have commanded *in My dwelling place*, and honor your sons more than Me, to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people?

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Chapter 3: We see the Lord reveal to Samuel what will happen to Eli

¹¹ Then the Lord said to Samuel: “Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. ¹² In that day I will perform against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³ For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them.

What happened next? Israel went out to battle the Philistines, taking the Ark of the Covenant with them, 30,000 Israelite soldiers were killed, the Ark was captured, Eli’s sons were both killed on the same day. When Eli heard it he fell over backwards, broke his neck and died!

NOTE: Lest we think that all hope is lost, let’s remember that this is the environment and example that Samuel grew up in. Yet Samuel is among Israel’s greatest prophets.

John 5:1-16 – Jesus heals the man at the Pool of Bethesda

⁵ After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ² Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. ³ In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. ⁴ For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. ⁵ Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been *in that condition* a long time, He said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” ⁷ The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.”

⁸ Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." ⁹ And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.

And that day was the Sabbath. ¹⁰ The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed."

¹¹ He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.' "

¹² Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" ¹³ But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in *that* place. ¹⁴ Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you."

¹⁵ The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

¹⁶ For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.

The Jews has **totally missed the intent** of the **keeping of the Sabbath**

Questions:

- Who are "the Jews" in this story? **The religious leaders.**
- The Commandment says: **Exodus 20** ⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the Lord your God. *In it* you shall do no work:
- The religious leaders were **famous for their legalism.** Was that honoring to God?
- What were some of the non-scriptural rules the Jews made up about keeping the Sabbath holy?

Jesus Himself defines what was meant:

Mark 2: ²³ Now it happened that He went through the grain fields on the Sabbath; and as they went His disciples began to pluck the heads of grain. ²⁴ And the Pharisees said to Him, "Look, why do they do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?"

²⁵ But He said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and hungry, he and those with him: ²⁶ how he went into the house of God *in the days* of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the showbread, which is not lawful to eat except for the priests, and also gave some to those who were with him?"

²⁷ And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath."

Back to the story of the man who Jesus healed:

- In the Jews mind what was the **healed man's sin/crime** – grabbing his bed and taking it home! After 38 years!
- In the Jews mind what was **Jesus's sin/crime** – that he told someone to “Rise, take up your bed and walk.” - 7 words!
- What are things **we have concocted in our legalism** that sound really holy but are not in the Bible?
 - **I grew up** in a very conservative Christian home. As kids we **couldn't go out and play after church** on Sunday – to keep the Sabbath holy.
 - My parents didn't go to **movies** or **play with cards**. How about you?
 - Maybe you're holding so tightly to your denominational upbringing, unwilling to fellowship with others, you're starting to look like a Pharisee. **Ouch!**
 - Or maybe you pride yourself that **you are at church every time it's open**. You're like Martha in the Bible – serving, serving, serving – but your family's falling apart and your husband's feeling neglected! **Ouch!**
 - Perhaps you're one who's proud that they **have that “quiet time”** in the morning. But just don't let your **kids interrupt you!** Or let someone ask you **what you read** and how you've **applied it** to your life! Are you in love with your routine rather than being in love with the Lord? **Ouch!**
 - What have you **elevated beyond your love of God?**

How did we get to this place?

Let's look at this from the account we read of Eli and his sons.

- It starts as a small series of **compromises**.
- Keeps moving forward with a series of **justifications of our actions** or our feelings.
- We are distracted.
- We let our guard down.
- We **stop dealing with the sin** in our lives. **We elevate our sin over obedience** to God.
- We **pull away** or let ourselves be pulled away from **those who would speak into our lives**. Those we are accountable to.

James 1:14-15 – ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

Fishing analogy:

You're the fish

Enticed is like the fishing lure being cast beside you

Conceived – is like taking the bait! You thought you were pursuing something real.

Now you took a bite and are **on the hook** – Sin is birthed!

What do we do now?

1st question – **Are you a Christian?** If not then . . . give your life to Christ!

If you'd answer yes to that question then:

- **1st John 1:9** - ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Back to our One Year Bible Reading

- **1st Samuel 12: 19-25**

¹⁹ And all the people said to Samuel, “Pray for your servants to the Lord your God, that we may not die; for we have added to all our sins the evil of asking a king for ourselves.”

²⁰ Then Samuel said to the people “Do not fear. You have done all this wickedness; yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart. ²¹ And do not turn aside; for *then you would go* after empty things, which cannot profit or deliver, for they *are* nothing. ²² For the Lord will not forsake His people, for His great name’s sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you His people. ²³ Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way. ²⁴ Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. ²⁵ But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.”

- **Do not fear** (vs 20) – The people are saying, “Samuel **pray for us that we may not die!**” He is reassuring them. Wait a moment – there is hope!

- Acknowledge your sin – [You have done all this wickedness](#) (vs 20)
- Yet . . . [do not turn aside](#) from following the Lord (vs 20)
- Only [fear the Lord](#) - Have reverence for the Lord based on who He is
- [Serve Him](#) in truth [with all your heart](#) (vs 20 & 24) – Do what He’s said to do
- The Why! // [For consider what great things He has done for you!](#) We do what we do **out of thankfulness to Him.** For what He’s done for us!

I was sitting in the office the other day talking to someone about this very thing. They asked – How do you do it? How do you do the right thing?

I pointed to the picture on the wall!!!

- [Psalm 1: 1-3](#)

Blessed *is* the man

Who [walks not](#) in the counsel of the [ungodly](#),

[Nor stands](#) in the path of [sinners](#),

[Nor sits](#) in the seat of the [scornful](#);

² But his delight *is* in the [law of the Lord](#),

And in [His law he meditates day and night.](#)

³ He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water,

That brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither;

And whatever he does shall prosper.

Let’s look at one last passage as we finish up: FROM TODAY’S One Year Bible!

- [Psalm 119:9-16](#)

How can a young man cleanse his way?

By taking heed according to [Your word](#).

¹⁰ With my whole heart I have sought You;

Oh, let me not wander from [Your commandments!](#)

¹¹ [Your word](#) I have hidden in my heart,

That I might not sin against You.

¹² Blessed *are* You, O Lord!

Teach me [Your statutes](#).

¹³ With my lips I have declared

All the judgments of Your mouth.

¹⁴ I have rejoiced in the way of [Your testimonies](#),

As *much* as in all riches.

¹⁵ I will meditate on Your precepts,

And contemplate Your ways.

¹⁶ I will delight myself in Your statutes;

I will not forget Your word.

As we conclude

- Maybe someone has recently **confronted you** of your sin.
- Or maybe you've been asking yourself – **How did I get to this place?**
- Maybe you've heard something tonight that has **caused you to consider** your walk with God.

What are you going to do?

Will you stand firm in your rebellion?

Or will you recognize that God is calling you to repentance? And to walk according to His ways.