
Take cover

Met up with an old friend and the topic of the gravest sins one can commit came up in our conversation. Some of the things we discussed stayed in my mind. I am not sure if it is just me but I feel that as the people around us grow older, the lines between right and wrong seem to blur. Along the way, I hear these...

That's the way I was raised.

Everyone else does it.

He started it.

I was tired.

When I was a student, the lines between right and wrong seem so clear. Once I started working, I realise things work...very differently...

The woman you put here with me-it's her fault!

Sometimes I think we even change the name of the sin to make it sound innocent.

It's not gossip; it's sharing

It's not coveting; it's admiring.

It's not lying; it's explaining.

What did the bible say?

2 Samuel 11:2-4

2 One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, 3 and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." 4 Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her.

Let's look at another biblical example.

Acts 5:1-4

1 Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. 2 With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

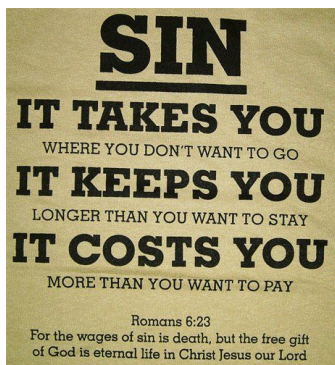
Ananias and Sapphira may have thought that when they lied about their offering to the church, it was not really worth God's notice. They did not commit grave sins such as murder or adultery. Surely God will overlook this small matter?

God's response?

He exposed their sin ([Acts 5:3-4](#)).

We also know the story of David choosing to send for Bathsheba even though she was married. He even planned to have his lover's husband killed in war to make the object of his lust a widow. Perhaps he thought that Uriah's death would redefine adultery. However hard he tried to cover his sin, God did not buy his excuses or his attempts to hide his sin.

God too, exposed his sin ([2 Samuel 12](#)).



All these examples illustrate one thing: even believers can be led into bold, flagrant sin. There is no such thing as believers being more righteous than non-believers or that some sins are small and others are big. Or that if we cover our sins, we can hide it. Maybe we may successfully hide it from others but God *will* expose it as seen in the Biblical examples stated here. There is no way

we can sin and get away with it unnoticed or unharmed.

Sin is sin.

What can we do?

God does not accept excuses but He does forgive sins. He is waiting for us to call it what He calls it – sin. When we acknowledge our sin and repent, God removes sin. In [2 Samuel 12: 13](#), when the prophet Nathan confronted David about his sin, David's **repentance** was **deep and real**. In [Psalm 51](#), he cried out for God's mercy, asking God to cleanse him of his sin, to teach him wisdom and to heal his conscience and his emotions.

David's song of confession and restoration can give us courage to confess our wrongs, no matter how far away from God we feel.

Personal Reflections

A decade ago, I was down with severe depression. To recover from my depression, I managed it the only way I could possibly do - by locking away my emotions. Even then it took me a year before I was ready to enter the work force again. You can say that for over a decade, I functioned mainly by logic. Hence, I pride myself as being a righteous person. How can I possibly make wrong decisions when I don't have the emotions to cloud my judgement? I do note that I am cold, distant and remote but I felt it was a small price to pay for keeping my sanity intact.

When I finally answered God's call to dance, He used arts to heal me, slowly putting fragments of my soul together. During a training session for the Christmas dance item, I rediscovered my emotions. God gave them all back to me so that I can freely dance and express myself. I become warmer and more genuine in my dealings with people. I laugh and joke freely, enjoying the



sensations the emotions bring. However, the richness of the emotions returning also overwhelmed me. It didn't help when things around me were happening (so...much...drama), clouding my judgements. I know the 'me' in the past could easily settle things but try as I might, I struggled.

One night, I surrendered. I confessed that I cannot fight sin with my own might and as much I tried to look at sin lightly, sin is sin. Pride, hypocrisy...a desire for the praises of men..etc..etc...all those emotions...Oh God...Help...so clear it is wrong but...

The very next day, God lifted all those dark clouds hanging over me. It was so simple. Confess my sins, cry out for mercy and let Him take rein over my life.

I.Could.Finally.Breathe.

I walked around the next few days, on eggshells, scarcely believing that the complications and situations that troubled me could take such a sudden change. *Did it all just...past?* Truly. God did not test me beyond what I cannot endure and even gave me the wisdom to handle difficult situations and people. Maybe all He wants is for me to be totally reliant on Him, to confess and repent, having Him make me new again. And because I recognise sin as sin and confessed in time about my failings, my weaknesses...I did not fall.

Repentance frees us. Honesty renews us. God's mercy cleanses us.

Have mercy on me Oh God.
According to Your unfailing love
According to Your great compassion
Blot out my transgressions.
Psalm 51:1

Alicia Wong