

Two Men Seek Repentance

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Introduction: Why do some men fall away and never return?

A. We will examine the fall and the reaction of the first two kings of Israel, Saul and David.

1. These two men began right and were God's choice. (1 **Sam 9:16-17**; **Acts 13:22**)
2. These two good men were given an enormous responsibility. They were not perfect but there were many that thought they were.
3. If these men gave into the expectations of the people they would in time hide their sins in pride. This would become a test for each of these men.

B. Repentance is a hard command.

1. We must first be honest and see ourselves as God does. Many cannot do this. (**Rev 3:17**; **Gal 6:1-3**)
2. We must surrender all that is dear to us and turn to God. (**Lk 9:23-24**; **14:33**)
3. We must learn and live a new way of life. (**Mt 3:7-9**)
4. Repentance is costly and hard in the short term. Men often fake it rather than pay the price. Let us now consider Saul and David.

I. Two Men Fell

A. Both men fell under temptation.

1. This is true for all men. (**Heb 12: 1**)
2. God will provide a way of escape if we will trust Him. (**1 Cor 10:13**)

B. Saul was tempted by concerns for his reputation among the people.

1. Saul faces a major crisis at Gilgal.
 - a. He faced imminent defeat before a great army. (**1 Sam 13:5-7**)
 - b. God's instructions through Samuel seemed to stand in the way. (**1 Sam 13:8**)
 - c. His decision was not one of faith, but of human reasoning. (**1 Sam 13:9-12**)
 - d. His problem was not the circumstances, but that he did not have enough faith to obey God (**1 Sam 13:13**).
 - e. Samuel reveals the consequences of Saul's disobedience. Still Saul never admitted his sin nor repented (**1 Sam 13:13-14**). He would later fall again when another temptation came.
2. Saul disobeys God again. (**1 Sam 15:3, 9**)
 - a. In doing so he gives the appearance of serving God. In fact, through pride, he had turned his back upon God. (**1 Sam 15: 10-11**)
 - b. Saul's concern is with pleasing the people, not the Lord. In the words of one commentator: "Saul, a man after man's own heart."
 - c. Samuel seeks Saul, but he is setting "up a *monument in his own honor*." (**1 Sam 15:12**)

C. David was tempted by another woman. (**2 Sam 11:1-3**)

1. Both of these people were in places they should not have been.
2. David could have looked away but he had become overconfident.
3. David commits adultery the wife of one of his loyal men. (**2 Sam 11:4-5**)
4. David tries to cover up his sin and when that fails he murders her husband. (**2 Sam 11:13-15**)

5. It would be one year before this sin would come back to David.

II. Two Men Confronted by their Sin

A. Saul was concerned mostly with self-Justification. **(I Sam 15:15, 19-20)**

1. He was more concerned with why he did it rather than what he did.
2. Saul admits his actions were to please the people.
3. Saul desired to be righteous before men. **(1 Sam 15:30).**
4. God told Saul the consequences of his actions. **(1 Sam 15:22-23, 35)**
5. Did Saul repent? **(1 Sam 15:24-25)**

"True repentance hates the sin, and not merely the penalty; and it hates the sin most of all because it has discovered and felt God's love." - W. M. Taylor

B. David offered no excuses and in repentance accepted whatever God would do.

1. The call to repentance involved some strong consequences. **(2 Sam 12:7-12)**
 - a. What if he had said, "What's the use of repenting?"
 - b. Real repentance will not focus upon the price that must be paid!
2. David did not appeal to the sins of others or tried to lay the blame on others.

(2 Sam 12:13; Psa 51:14)

III. Two Men Bear the Fruits of their Choices

A. Saul's life becomes a decent into madness.

1. He comes to blame more and more people for his own problems.
 - a. Samuel knows that Saul would even kill him. **(I Sam 16:2)**
 - b. He even suspects his own son Jonathan. **(1 Sam 22:8)**

"The difference between true and false repentance lies in this: the man who truly repents cries out against his heart; but the other, as Eve, against the serpent, or something else. - John Bunyan

2. He openly kills the priests of God. **(I Sam 22:17-19)**
3. God causes him to see and admit his sin, but he does not repent!
(1 Sam 26:21-27:1)
 - a. When a man accepts deception and build his life on it, he may come to a point where he is unable to repent.
 - b. How many admit their sin and then go right back to it.
4. Saul finally kills himself in an arrogant madness. **(1 Sam 31:4-6)**

B. David found peace with God while dealing with the awful consequences of his sin.

1. The first thing he is told after repenting is an awful consequence.
(2 Sam 12:13-14)
2. He was later to see bloodshed and sin amongst his own children.
3. He would grieve many times over the consequences of what he had done.
(2 Sam 18:33)
4. He did find in spite of these things a life of joy and purpose! **(Psa 51:11-15)**
5. How is David remembered? **(Acts 2:29-30)**

Conclusion: We need to understand and willingly pay the price of repentance.

A. In Jesus' day there were many who would not. **(Jn 12:42-43)**

B. Any consequences of sin can be borne if we know God is with us. **(Heb 13:5-6)**