

Bible Study (Fall 2021)

The Life of David & God's

“Applause, Approval and Affirmation” of David's Life

Lesson 5 ... Winning God's Applause

Dec. 1 & Dec. 8, 2021

Anchor Scriptures: 2 Samuel 19-1 Kings 2:11

No true believer wins God's applause without going through skirmishes with:

➤ ***Self*** – *Every true believer has to overcome their self-imposed injuries or defeat.*

1) Abraham had to go through his own struggles.

2) Jacob – stole the blessing

➤ ***Others*** – *We can be betrayed, lied upon, or deceived by others.*

1) Joseph – His brothers were jealous.

2) Potiphar's wife accused him.

➤ ***Life*** – *Has a way of ambushing all of us.*

However, God has a way of turning things around in a season of our lives. God has a way of finding a way to celebrate and applaud our lives, even through the messiness of living.

It's amazing that out of all of David's musings, mistakes, muddy situations:

- *He did not lose his desire to worship God.*
- *David's heart, though often dark, had a light of God's presence and provision.*

It's no wonder he could write:

- *The Lord is my Shepherd*
 ➤ **Ps. 23:1** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- *The Lord is the strength of my life*
 ➤ **Ps. 27:1** The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
 the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- *The Lord is my refuge*
 ➤ **Ps. 46:1** The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
 the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

How can that be true of a man like David, who committed horrible sins? More importantly, how can we, as sinners, win God's applause? There are at least three requirements.

I. Respond to Sin with a Repenting Heart

The most beautiful blessing we have been given is the chance to repent.

*David walks us through it in **Ps. 51**.*

- 1) **Have mercy on me: Vs. 1** Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.
- 2) **Wash me: Vs. 2** ²Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3) **I own my mistake: Vs. 3** ³For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.
- 4) **Immerse me: Vs. 7** ⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 5) **Create and renew: Vs. 10** ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

6) **Put me back: Vs. 12** ¹² Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

II. Respond to Service with an Undivided Heart

To win God's applause, we cannot just give Him parts of our hearts. A divided heart will derail our service for Him. God wants us to serve Him because it keeps us from being permanently damaged by sin.

III. Respond to Success with a Praising Heart

What is the greatest danger for the Christian? Is it failure or success? The answer might surprise you.

Believe it or not, the greatest risk for failing or stumbling for the Christian is right after a great victory or having great success in something.

Four ways to respond to God-given success

Here are four Christian responses:

- 1. Grow in integrity***
- 2. Give glory to God***
- 3. Help others succeed***
- 4. Dream bigger***

*To win God's applause, **respond to sin with a repenting heart, respond to service with an undivided heart, and respond to success with a praising heart.***