

King David and His  
Band of Misfits  
2nd Samuel



# Mess Ups of the Bible

**Theme: Bitterness and resentment...when we've excluded forgiveness as an option.**

## I. What is bitterness and resentment?

Bitterness and resentment are the destructive feelings we harbor in our souls as a result of a seeming powerlessness over those who have harmed us. *"The word resentment comes from two Latin words: re and sentire. Sentire means 'to feel' and re means 'again.' Thus the full meaning of the word is 'to feel over and over again' the anger, the bitterness, and the hatred that wells up in reaction to the injustice the powerless often endure at the hands of the powerful"* (Anthony Campolo).

Bitterness and resentment are also sin:

See Proverbs 24:29  
Matthew 5:44; 6:14,15  
Luke 6:27-37  
Romans 12:14, 17-21  
Galatians 5:13-15  
Ephesians 4:25-32

Break into several groups of two each. Each dyad look up a passage. Read it. Digest it. Come back together in just a few moments. Each group report what was learned.

## II. What are the symptoms of bitterness and resentment?

- A. You feel like striking back or telling off those in authority.
- B. You explode for no apparent or obvious reason.
- C. You engage in a power struggle with those close to you.
- D. You avoid or fear any type of contact with significant individuals.
- E. You compare yourself with significant others. Either you feel inferior to them or you compete with them.
- F. You make caustic or spiteful comments toward those you love.
- G. You feel unappreciated or left out.

**WOW!**

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- H. You experience somatic complaints which could include stomachache, headache, backache, and so on.
  - I. Your outlook on life itself is basically pessimistic or negative.
  - J. You feel restricted in the expression of emotions towards others, even those with whom you have a "close" relationship.
  - K. You feel your loved ones never really cared for you or that you were mistreated in some way by them.
- III. **Where can we see how bitterness and resentment turn loved ones into enemies?**

2 Samuel, chapters eleven through seventeen

Review from Sunday Morning:

Scripture	Events
2 Samuel 11	David sins with Bathsheba
2 Samuel 13:1-22	Amnon rapes Tamar
2 Samuel 13:23-39	Absalom murders Amnon
2 Samuel 15:1-12	Absalom rebels against David
2 Samuel 15:12,31	Ahithophel follows Absalom
2 Samuel 17:14	Absalom rejects Ahithophel's counsel
2 Samuel 17:23	Ahithophel kills himself

What reason did we find for Ahithophel, one of David's most trustworthy counselors, turning against him?

Scripture	Events
2 Samuel 11:3	Bathsheba is the daughter of Eliam
2 Samuel 23:34	Eliam is the son of Ahithophel

Ahithophel was Bathsheba's Grandfather!

Can you imagine how he must have felt on that fateful night when his King forced himself upon his granddaughter?

**Application:** Time does not heal emotional wounds! Can you verify this in your own life? How so?

#### IV. What can we do about bitterness and resentment?

##### A. Group Study: Psalm 51

Does anyone have a Study Bible (a Bible with notes)?

If so, what do your notes tell you about what prompted King David to write this Psalm?

Read the Psalm out loud. Let any group member stop the reading as he or she is struck with an implication, a feeling, or a thought about something contained in the Psalm. Just allow yourselves the privilege of drinking in this fantastic truth. Worship.

Finally, focus on verses sixteen and seventeen.

Under the headings “sacrifice” and “burnt offerings” what could we list as ways we attempt to deal with our sin?

In contrast to all that, what should be our means for dealing with sin?

How will becoming a person of the broken spirit and contrite heart change our lives?

How might becoming a person of the broken spirit and contrite heart impact the lives of others?

How can becoming a people of the broken spirit and contrite heart help the Body of Christ to “make disciples of all the nations” (Matthew 28:19,20)?

Can you think of any specific ways you or your group can apply these truths and, as a result, allow broken spirits and contrite hearts to bring about some kind of ministry?

##### B. Individual Study: on your own consider the rest of this outline.

**Confession**, not lip service, is our first step in dealing with our bitterness and resentment.

- **To God:** 1 John 1:9, 10 (read the passage)

Confess: (from <http://net.bible.org/verse.php?book=1Jo&chapter=1&verse=9>)

1) (Greek = *homologeō*) to say the same thing as another, i.e. to agree with, assent 2) to concede 2a) not to refuse, to promise 2b) not to deny 2b1) to confess 2b2) declare 2b3) to confess, i.e. to admit or declare one's self guilty of what one is accused of 3) to profess 3a) to declare openly, speak out freely 3b) to profess one's self the worshipper of one 4) to praise, celebrate

Wow. With all that in mind, is there anything in the word *confess* that might imply we are not in complete agreement with God about our sin condition?

Of course, the answer is no. So, when we confess our sins to God, what are we really doing?

- **To others:** James 5:16 (read the passage)

Confess: (from same online dictionary page)

(Greek = *exomologeō*) to confess 2) to profess 2a) acknowledge openly and joyfully 2b) to one's honour: to celebrate, give praise to 2c) to profess that one will do something, to promise, agree, engage

The preface *ex* on the front of *homologeō* adds the idea of out in the open. When we confess to others our sin, we should do so openly, joyfully. It is cause for celebration and honor. Hmmm. Think about that for awhile.

**Forgiveness**, which includes moving from hurt to health, is our next step in dealing with our bitterness and resentment.

- **Matthew** 18:21-35 (read the passage)
- **Ephesians** 4:31, 32 (read the passage)
- **Colossians** 3:13 (read the passage)

In light of Ephesians and Colossians, how should we forgive?