**Offering Thought**

**Proverbs 21:26 (New Living Translation)**

*26 Some people are always greedy for more,*

*but the godly love to give!*

**Learning From Our Mistakes**

**Big Idea:** The process of shattering our pride requires us to face our sins and weaknesses instead of hiding behind performance and heartlessly going through the motions.

**Text: Psalm 51:16-17 (Amplified Bible)**

*16 For You do not delight in sacrifice, or else I would give it;*

*You are not pleased with burnt offering.*

*17 My [only] sacrifice [acceptable] to God is a broken spirit;*

*A broken and contrite heart [broken with sorrow for sin, thoroughly penitent], such, O God, You will not despise.*

**Introduction:**

* Mistakes is something that everyone knows. We all experienced it.
* One common quote I always hear and say during my career in IT is, **“Mistakes are meant to happen. It is expected.’**
* Another common quote I say to people is, **‘Mistakes are not meant to be repeated. You need to learn from it.’**
* Mistakes are a part of life and when we make those mistakes, we are called to learn from them.
* Psalm 51 was written by David after being confronted by the prophet Nathan for his sin in sleeping with Bathsheba, a woman whose husband had been away at war. David had compounded his sin when, after discovering that Bathsheba was pregnant, ordered Bathsheba’s husband to the frontlines, where he was killed.
* Nathan let David know that he had sinned and would incur the consequences. David was heartbroken – not just because he must endure punishment, but because of the damage that he had done to his relationship with God.
* We all made mistakes in our life. But what do we do about it?
  + **Are you failing or are you learning?**
* **Mistakes are a fundamental building block for learning. We learn important lessons in life through it.**

**Learning From Our Mistakes**

1. **Avoid self-preservation.**
   1. *v. 16 For You do not delight in sacrifice, or else I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering.*
   2. David tried to cover up his mistake when Bathsheba got pregnant.
      1. He instructed Uriah to come back from the battlefield, hoping he will sleep with his wife. He didn’t.
      2. He made him drunk, hoping he will sleep with his wife. Again, he didn’t.
      3. Then he assigned Uriah to the frontline where the battle is fiercest, and instructed Joab to withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die.
   3. David thought he succeeded in covering up his mistake. But Nathan confronted him with the word from the Lord.
   4. **When we hide our mistakes, we make it worse.**
   5. **One of the biggest problem when making mistakes is PRIDE. It prevents us from learning from our wrongdoings.**
   6. David could have taken the same path that King Saul took. When confronted of his wrongdoing, King Saul tried to justify his actions.
   7. David could have easily offered burnt offerings and sacrifices of all kinds. That would be enough to cover up his sin. He is king, no one will question what he is doing.
   8. Sometimes we are like this. We try to justify, cover up our mistakes by ministry, sacrifices, good things, others. Just because we want to preserve our reputation, name, status.
   9. But David repented. He was rebuked by Nathan in front of people and yet he did not cover up for his sin. He acknowledged it.
      1. *v. 3 For I am conscious of my transgressions and I acknowledge them; My sin is always before me.*
   10. **The way to learn from our mistake is to repent from it.** Avoid self-preservation.
2. **Accept brokenness**
   1. *v. 17 My [only] sacrifice [acceptable] to God is a broken spirit; A broken and contrite heart [broken with sorrow for sin, thoroughly penitent], such, O God, You will not despise.*
   2. Consequences are meant to break us. Hurts are part of correction.
   3. **We learn when we allow ourselves to be broken.**
   4. **But stubbornness makes our heart hard to change.**
   5. God’s lessons start from our hearts.
      1. *v. 6 Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part [of my heart] You will make me know wisdom.*
      2. Unless we are broken, God’s teachings cannot be planted.
   6. **Brokenness is humbleness. It is allowing God to save us.**
      1. *Psalm 34:18 (Amplified Bible)*

*18 The Lord is near to the heartbroken*

*And He saves those who are crushed in spirit (contrite in heart, truly sorry for their sin).*

* 1. **When we make mistakes, a broken and contrite heart is the best sacrifice we can offer to God. It will lead us to becoming whole again.**

1. **Have a willing spirit**
   1. *v. 12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. And sustain me with a willing spirit.*
   2. **Every mistake has its lesson. We need to learn from it willingly and joyfully.**
   3. David knows that it will not be the last time he will make a mistake. That is why his prayer is for God to sustain him with a willing spirit.
   4. **There will be different lessons for each mistake. But our attitude towards learning from it should always be the same, be willing and joyful.**
   5. Learning from our mistakes takes effort, there are sacrifices we need to make.
      1. The child that Bathsheba had with David needed to die because of his sin.
   6. Without a willing spirit, we will not go through the sacrifices. We might even rebel against God.
   7. **Consequences, sacrifices, hurts, are hard to accept.**
   8. **But with a willing spirit, the lessons we will learn will make us better.**
      1. *v. 13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,*
      2. *And sinners shall be converted and return to You.*

**Conclusion:**

* **When we try to deny our mistakes, that is when trouble really begins.**
  + *1 Corinthians 10:12 (New Living Translation)*

*12 If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall.*

* **Shattered lives matter to God. It is an opportunity for Him to make something better.**
* We only need to humble ourselves and allow Him to work in us. To teach us and correct our mistakes.
* **The lessons we will learn from our mistakes are often the most important lessons we will have in our life.**
* Let us learn from our mistakes!

**Discussion:**

* What is your biggest mistake in your life?
* What lessons have you learned from it, and how?