How Do I Manage My Problems?

Greg Kline · Genesis 3:1–13

INTRODUCTION

- See, when we're caught, we have all kinds of answers for why.
- We make excuses. We get angry, and maybe even in those moments we deny what is so obviously a wrongdoing on our part.
- And not only how do I deal with them, but how in the future, as a child of God, should I handle my problems?

1 Adam and Eve: Making Excuses and Blaming Others

Genesis 3:1–13; Genesis 2:16–17

- In verse 12, the man says, The woman whom you gave me. She gave me the fruit of the tree, and I ate.
- And the woman said, The serpent deceived me, and I ate.
- And how would you characterize that? Making excuses and blaming others.
- He knows who's guilty. He knows who's righteous. God cares about those who are faithful to him. We may be able to fool somebody, but we will never fool God.

2 Like Asa: I Get Angry and Lash Out

2 Chronicles 16:1–10

- Who did Asa rely on in his time of trouble and distress? Not the Lord, but the king of Syria.
- For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless towards him.
- Then Asa was angry with the seer and put him in stocks in prison, for he was in a rage with him because of this.
- When I'm confronted with wrongdoing, one of the natural responses is anger, frustration.
- But when I'm presented with my struggles and faults, do I get angry? And do I lash out and seemingly blame the other?

3 Respond to My Struggles Like David

2 Samuel 12:1–13

- And Nathan says in verse 7, what? You are the man.
- And in verse 13, note David's reply. I have sinned against the Lord.
- Nathan says to David, The Lord also has put away your sin. You shall not die.
- Our forgiveness hinges upon our response to my own struggles and weakness.
- The only way to have forgiveness from God is to confess it and change.

4 Do I Respond by Making Excuses?

Matthew 25:41–46

- Then they will also answer, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry?
- Truly I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.
- Our eyes have to be up and searching for opportunities to serve, not down and looking at the ground, looking for excuses to cover our wrongdoing.
- God demands confession and repentance. That's a changed life. Excuses are not pleasing to him, and so they cannot be acceptable to us either.

5 Do You Have a Nathan?

James 5:16–17; 1 John 1:8–10

- Do you have a Nathan? Do you have a Han and I? Who is the person who will confront you?
- Who in your life is going to be someone that you are accountable to?
- We have to find a brother. We have to find a sister. We have to work together.
- James 5, 16 and 17 makes it clear that we are to confess our sins to one another.
- Are you willing to look vulnerable? It's not even about looks. Are you willing to be exposed?

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Consider this morning, will I make excuses? Do I have my Nathan?**

MY NOTES