

God Can Make It Good!

Purpose: to show that God is committed to us, that even when we make a mistake He will turn it for good, and that He will fight for us.

I asked this question before, but I'm going to ask it again: have you ever made a mistake? I want to let you know that God has a way of taking our failures and turning them into successes when we love Him and especially when we are doing His business:

Rom 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

Some of the great men in the bible made mistakes:

Peter – Paul had to stand up against Peter in his hypocrisy:

Gal 2:11 - Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed;

Gal 2:12 - for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision.

Gal 2:13 - And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.

Gal 2:14 - But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before *them* all, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?"

Paul & Barnabas – had such an issue between them that they had to separate from one another.

Act 15:39 - Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus;

Act 15:40 - but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.

Paul – lost his temper before the high Priest:

Act 23:1 - Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men *and* brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."

Act 23:2 - And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth.

Act 23:3 - Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, *you* whitewashed wall! For you sit to judge me according to the law, and do you command me to be struck contrary to the law?"

Act 23:4 - And those who stood by said, "Do you revile God's high priest?"

Act 23:5 - Then Paul said, "I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT SPEAK EVIL OF A RULER OF YOUR PEOPLE.'"

Here, the children of Israel made a mistake – they did not ask counsel of the LORD. This meant that things changed for them and in many ways became more difficult:

Jos 10:1 - Now it came to pass when Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard how Joshua had taken Ai and had utterly destroyed it—as he had done to Jericho and its king, so he had done to Ai and its king—and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them,

Jos 10:2 - that they feared greatly, because Gibeon *was* a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it *was* greater than Ai, and all its men *were* mighty.

Jos 10:3 - Therefore Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish, and Debir king of Eglon, saying,

Jos 10:4 - "Come up to me and help me, that we may attack Gibeon, for it has made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel."

Jos 10:5 - Therefore the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, *and* the king of Eglon, gathered together and went up, they and all their armies, and camped before Gibeon and made war against it.

Jos 10:6 - And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying, "Do not forsake your servants; come up to us quickly, save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the mountains have gathered together against us."

Jos 10:7 - So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor.

How were things more difficult?

- 5 kings united against them – up to this point, they only fought one at a time
- They had to defend a foreign city because of the oath that they made - therefore their strategy and tactics had to change
- They had to act immediately instead of at their own time – they were unable to prepare or to even seek the LORD for a plan of attack
- They had to gather all the men of war – this battle required all of their resources

But God was still with them, and turned it for good:

Jos 10:8 - And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have delivered them into your hand; not a man of them shall stand before you."

Jos 10:9 - Joshua therefore came upon them suddenly, having marched all night from Gilgal.

Jos 10:10 - So the LORD routed them before Israel, killed them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, chased them along the road that goes to Beth Horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah.

God told them three things:

- Do not fear them...
- I have delivered them into your hand...
- Not a man of them shall stand before you

God did what they could not do:

Jos 10:11 - And it happened, as they fled before Israel *and* were on the descent of Beth Horon, that the LORD cast down large hailstones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. *There were* more who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword.

Jos 10:12 - Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon."

Jos 10:13 - So the sun stood still, And the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies. *Is* this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go *down* for about a whole day.

Jos 10:14 - And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the LORD heeded the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel.

Jos 10:15 - Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

So, remember:

- God is still committed to you, even when make a mistake
- God promises to make even mistakes turn for good for those who love and serve Him
- The LORD fought for Israel – the LORD will fight for you!