

## When a Friend Falls

Just curious – if you could be any Bible character, who would you be? You have to be careful who you choose.

For all the great things we have to say about David, there's just as much junk in the life of this King. To reach many of his victories he had to experience many painful failures.

David's friendships were no different. We see a lot of examples of successful friendships, but we also see some horrible examples.

For example...

Joab was a friend of David. Joab is the friend and captain in David's army. We find in 2 Samuel 14 that Joab goes to great measures to show help his friend David. He basically punks (tricks) David into realizing a big mistake he was making. However, if we look closer, we find that Joab may not be as good of a friend as we think. In 2 Samuel 11, when David has committed the sin of adultery with Bathsheba, Joab is the one who follows David's direction to have Bathsheba's husband killed in battle to cover his own sin. Joab murdered for David...is that friendship?

Then there's Nathan. We find that Nathan is a prophet who heavily influenced David to the point that David eventually named a son after Nathan. We find in scripture that they become good friends. What's ironic is that Nathan tricks David a lot like Joab did. He challenges David in 2 Samuel 12 about his adultery with Bathsheba. But instead of helping David cover it up, Nathan does something very difficult. He confronts his friend about a sin in his life. He didn't back down. As a matter fact listen...

### *2 Sam 12:1-10*

**12:1** *The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, "There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. 2 The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, 3 but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. 4 "Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him." 5 David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die! 6 He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity." 7 **Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man!** This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. 8 I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. 9 Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. 10 Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.'*

## When a Friend Falls

1. Don't follow
  - a. Don't imitate
  - b. Don't feel pressure to give in
  - c. Don't approve or condone
  - d. Don't look the other way
  - e. Don't go half-way (lukewarm like Joab)
  
2. Don't condemn
  - a. Don't hurt them
  - b. Don't kick 'em while their down (Job's 3 Friends)

*13 "Yet if you devote your heart to him and stretch out your hands to him, 14 if you put away the sin that is in your hand and allow no evil to dwell in your tent, 15 then you will lift up your face without shame; you will stand firm and without fear. Job 11:13-15*

*2:1 Then Job replied: 2 "Doubtless you are the people, and wisdom will die with you! 3 But I have a mind as well as you; I am not inferior to you. Who does not know all these things? Job 12:1-3*

- c. Don't act pious
  - d. Don't abandon
  - e. Don't distance or pull away
  
3. Get Involved
  - a. Get Ready
  - b. Get in their Face (You the Man! – Nathan)
  - c. Get Honest and Transparent
  - d. Get a Handle on Forgiveness
  - e. Get Ready Again
  
4. Get Help
  - a. Get Your Bible (Nathan was sent by the Lord – You are Too!)
  - b. Get another Christian Friend
  - c. Get a Minister
  - d. Get a Parent
  - e. Get Professional Help

**THE TRUE TEST OF FRIENDSHIP – ARE YOU WILLING TO ALLOW A FRIEND REJECT YOU IN ORDER TO BE A REAL FRIEND?**

**MAKE A PACT WITH YOUR FRIENDS – LEARN TO RECEIVE GODLY CORRECTION – A TRUE FRIEND WILL RECEIVE GODLY CORRECTION**

*Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy (Proverbs 27:6).*