

What To Do When You've Blown It | Part 4

Lesson 6

Isaiah 59:1-12

November 27, 2022

Getting Past the Guilt of Your Past

INTRODUCTION

God hears our prayers. But when we separate ourselves from Him; when we are mired and distant in sin; when our prayers are few and far between; our prayers become quiet and weak. It isn't that God isn't listening, for He always hears the prayers of His people. Rather, our sin speaks louder. Our attachment to this world and its attractiveness drowns out any prayers we might offer. It's much harder to hear someone when they're walking ahead and facing away.

It is through confession and repentance that we turn back to God and speak to Him from the depths of our heart, where He dwells. It is on our knees that our prayers become strong, that our connection to God becomes greater, and our clarity is best.

Isaiah makes it clear that God is not the one who gives up, nor is He unable to help. It is us, in our sin, that have caused the strain on the relationship. It is us who have disconnected from God's will and His blessings. Isaiah warns us that those who seek justice, peace, and deliverance will find none outside of God's care.

Memory verse: "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear."—Isaiah 59:2

Pray, and read Isaiah 59:1-12. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?

1. What does Isaiah say about God's ability to help?
(Isaiah 59:1)
2. What was the result of the people's iniquities?
(Isaiah 59:2)
3. What are some of the images Isaiah brings up to paint the picture of a disobedient life? (Isaiah 59:3-11)
4. Where is justice, righteousness, and light for those described by Isaiah? (Isaiah 59:9-10)
5. What types of sin does Isaiah refer to?
(Isaiah 59:12b-13)

4. Isaiah (59:12) concludes his illustrations and brings us back to sin. From this verse, what can we understand about sin and how it affects our relationship with God? (Proverbs 28:13; Romans 3:23-24)

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. Isaiah used bold language to talk about sin and how it separates us from God. He likened the sinful life of Israel to blindness, crookedness, and stumbling. Do you find yourself stumbling at times and feeling unconnected to God? What have you learned from this lesson that could help?

