

# *I've Sinned; Now What?*

**Num 32:23**

Zeke Flores

**Intro:** *Num 32:23 is true for everyone and how unprepared we can be when it happens!*

- A. A man I knew long before I became a Xian was a recovering alcoholic. When I met him he'd been sober for about 1 ½ years and was proud of it. Trouble was, he still liked to do the same things and he still had the same friends. He was a pool player (pretty good, too) and usually the only places to play pool in a small town are bars. He played with his friends sipping at his Pepsi and collecting his winnings (he always played for \$\$) until the temptation grew too strong and Pepsi turned into beer, beer turned into shots of straight liquor. Last time I saw him, he was drunk having been on a bender for several days. He looked bewildered, like he didn't know what hit him and he looked like he didn't know what to do.
- B. Yielding to temptation is like that.
  1. We skate too close to the edge, then we fall off.
- C. There are good passages that warn about the foolishness of flirting with sin:
  1. **Prov 6:27-28**
  2. But the fact is, we all do, then BAM! we get sucked in. What then?

## **I. I Must Accept and Admit My Sin**

- A. What it is NOT:
  1. Hiding my sin - **Ex 2:11-14**
  2. Passing the blame - **Gen 3:8-13**
  3. Misrepresenting my sin - **1 Sam 15:2-3, 7-9, 17-21**
  4. Not showing remorse - **Mal 1:6-13; 1 Cor 5:1-2**
  5. All of this indicates I have not yet realized sin for what it is and where it leads.
    - a. Though we denounce the indulgences sold by the Catholic church, in reality many wish for them. We wish for something we can wave at God or others that will dismiss us from the responsibility of our sin.
    - b. It points to an embarrassing neglect of spiritual care. Like the parent who left for a trip and left his child with a sitter. Upon the parent's return the sitter said, "Here is the baby's food, clothes, and toys, but I've lost the baby!" In the same way we provide for our body's well-being but on judgment day will we say, "Lord here's my body, nice and cared for but I can't find my soul!"
- B. What it IS:
  1. Owning my sin - **2 Sam 12:7, 13; Psalm 51:1-4**
  2. Mourn over my sin - **Matt 5:4; Luke 18:13**
  3. Confessing my sin (as publicly as the sin was)
    - a. To God - **Psalm 32:5**
    - b. To one another - **1 John 1:8-9, James 5:16**
  4. Being willing to make restitution - **Luke 19:8, Matt 3:8**
    - a. The point is to not just "even up" but to go beyond what you were before spiritually.

## **II. I Must Learn From My Sin**

- A. Sometimes we can spend more time complaining about our accusers and critics than we do repenting.
- B. Repentance gives us an opportunity to:
  1. Realize I am not perfect but that doesn't mean I can't find ways to improve.
  2. Realize God is still teaching me - **James 1:21-25**
    - a. I've got to realize what I am (a sinner), and that I cannot do it by myself, but that God will help.
    - b. **1 Cor 10:13**
  3. Then, I can start bearing the fruit of repentance.

## **III. I Must Make The Best of My 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance**

- A. The Bible is filled with examples of men and women who were given 2<sup>nd</sup> chances (3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, etc).
  1. Some did well, some not so well.
    - a. A college-football coach was faced with the possibility that his star player might be declared academically ineligible, so he pleaded with the math professor not to flunk the kid. "Tell you what, coach," said the professor, "I'll ask him a question in your presence. If he gets it right, I'll pass him." The athlete was called in, and the prof asked, "What's two and two?" "Four," replied the player. Frantically the coach cried, "Give him another chance! Give him another chance!"

2. Sometimes we blow our chance listening to the wrong people. What will I do with my 2<sup>nd</sup> chance?
- B. To make it worthwhile and beneficial, I've got to use it to make myself better, move beyond the sin stronger for it.
1. **2 Cor 7:9-11** – The choice is mine.

**Conc:** *Yielding to sin is not easy to get over, but it doesn't have to destroy me. God will help.* – Prov 28:13