

FACING PAST FAILURES WITH HONESTY

KING HEZEKIAH

2 CHRONICLES 29:6-9

Day 24

King Hezekiah admitted past failures & unfaithfulness for the entire nation of Judah. He said it out loud. It sounded bad; it was painful to say; it was humiliating.

How I hate to have to admit failure & evil doing. Yes, we can confess to God; of course, he knows all the facts already anyway. Telling some other person of my past failures was a painful yet a therapeutic experience. Regardless of how we face the past, it needs to be done with honesty & personal responsibility.

I met a man in prison once who had committed a murder in his late teenage years. He wanted to tell me about it one day. He did not start with the words, "I killed somebody that did not deserve to be killed". He started like this, "My mother was a drug addict and a slut. She did not love me and she spent most of my life on the streets. My father was a sperm donor, a thief, and a drug addict. He had no input into my life except to show up each month to take the welfare money from my mother, get drunk, and then beat me up. The neighborhood was bad; my friends were evil; the schools were a joke, and I had educational deficiencies. A friend once cheated me & tried to lie his way out of it. We fought; he had a stick; I had a knife; he died. It was him or me.

Another man approached me to share his story. He dropped his head, tears filled his eyes, his body actually shook; he took hold of both my hands and sobbed, "I killed my father; I made horrible decisions & mistakes; I was a fool. I am dedicating my life to prevent young guys from falling down the road I traveled."

Both men killed someone, and both men had horrible childhoods; both men made bad choices; both men probably were not totally at fault.

Lord, I did it. I am deeply, deeply sorry. Help me to grow from here.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. How have you honestly faced your past, and the acts that you have committed that possibly hurt others?
2. Share your counsel with someone who may feel that he can never get past his evil & destructive past.

A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

What do you need to say to God as you face the topic being discussed in this devotional? Write out your prayer word for word just as if you were praying. Use separate lined paper to record your prayer. Make sure you actually pray this prayer to the Lord. Be honest & be personal. After all, you mean business with God here. You want this area of your life either fixed, strengthened, added, or removed.