



## A Publication of the Winnetka Ave. Church of Christ

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March 31, 2024

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# THE BULWARK

## LIFE DOES GET MESSY

My oh my does life ever get messy. But it is not limited to us today. Even a cursory reading of the Bible would support the messiness of life. Consider for example the book of 2Samuel, which narrates the life of David from roughly the death of Saul to shortly before his own death. Along the way the book celebrates the sundry battles that were won when he was king (first ten chapters). In chapter eleven, David makes his life ever so messy, when he decides to engage in adultery with Bathsheba. One thing leads to another, the murder of Uriah, the death of the unborn child of David and Bathsheba, incest arises in David's family which leads to the murder of Amnon.

One would think all of that was enough, but no. David's son Absalom (who had Amnon because he raped Tamar; their sister) led an insurrection and usurped David's throne for a period of time. Absalom is killed and David retakes the throne. David was faced with some harsh consequences for his sins, however he learned and grew from them. Life got messy, but he was able to rise and had this said of him, "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will." (Acts 13:22)

How did David go from the abysmal mess he had created in his life, to being a "man after My own heart"? David provides the answer in 2Samuel 22:29-30. "You, Lord, are my lamp; the Lord turns my darkness into light. For by You I can run against a troop; by my God I can leap over a wall." Beset by difficul-

ties, he knew to turn to God, rather than succumb to looking inward. A lesson from which we would all benefit.



Most can readily identify with David, inasmuch as he struggled; he was less than perfect, as are we. Yet, he grew to become painfully honest with himself. He knew God was the answer for all times, and especially when life got messy. *David is quoted as having noted, "As for God His way is perfect; the word*

*of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him."* (2Samuel 22:31) Which ties in beautifully with what is seen in Psalms 46:1, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." This holds true for us today.

James, in the first chapter of his epistle notes that life does, without any equivocation, gets messy. Yet the appeal is to recognize the need to entrust self to God, and that without any reservations. "For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord gives grace and glory; no good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly. Lord of host, how blessed is the man who trusts in Thee!" (Psalms 84:11-12)

Another take away from the life of David, is that it is never too late to make a fresh start with God. Regardless of how messy life gets, God remains a constant. Peter, who also knew how messy life could get, wrote, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you." (1Peter 5:6-7) (wbe)