

## Death to Selfie – 5

We live in a time of instant success, fame and popularity. Or so it seems. Our culture is all about the power of self. We want it our way and we want it now!

### Mark 8:34–36 (NLT)

<sup>34</sup> Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. <sup>35</sup> If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. <sup>36</sup> And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?\*

- To serve Jesus and reach our fullest potential we must die to “Selfie”
- My Will – My Comfort – My identity
- When we die to self we find our identity in Him

## Living Sacrifices to God

### Romans 12:1–3 (NKJV)

**12** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. <sup>3</sup> For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

## ALL IT TAKES IS A CHANGED MIND!

- It's about a Changed Mind
- Many people can go for prayer in the prayer line
- They can read their Bibles
- They can get all emotional
- Yet see no change
- The mind needs to change first
  - The way I see my life in light of the call of Christ

Death to *Selfie* is about a surrendered life

Surrendered to God

Submitted to others

Committed to the Body of Christ

Available for God to change me and use me for His glory!

### James 1:21–25 (NLT)

<sup>21</sup> So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup> But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. <sup>25</sup> But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

- Stop lying to yourself
- Admit the truth – Come clean – die to *Selfie*
- The truth will set you free!

Hiding your sin might make life easier in the short run, but it always becomes worse over time.

**Proverbs 28:13 (NLT)**

<sup>13</sup> People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.

- Basically sin is anything that poisons our relationship with God

The New Testament makes a distinction between two types of power

*Exousia* is the willpower to not do things we have the ability to do

*Dunamis* is the power to do things beyond our natural ability

Do you have a secret addiction?

Do you struggle with Pornography or fantasy?

Do you binge eat and then cover it up?

Are you cutting – hurting yourself, then covering the scars?

Are you shopping, spending or gambling away your resources to numb your life pain?

Are you inconsistent between your words and your actions?

Are you dishonoring God on Saturday night then going to Church on Sunday acting like nothing happened?

Are you going too far with your boyfriend or girlfriend?

Stealing from your employer?

Lying about your feelings to someone you love?

Idolizing success or material possessions?

Gossiping about friends to make you look better?

*If you're willing to stop hiding and seek God's mercy you can experience liberating joy like never before*

## 2 Samuel 11:1–5 (NLT)

In the spring of the year,\* when kings normally go out to war, David sent Joab and the Israelite army to fight the Ammonites. They destroyed the Ammonite army and laid siege to the city of Rabbah. However, David stayed behind in Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> Late one afternoon, after his midday rest, David got out of bed and was walking on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of unusual beauty taking a bath. <sup>3</sup> He sent someone to find out who she was, and he was told, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.”

<sup>4</sup> Then David sent messengers to get her; and when she came to the palace, he slept with her. She had just completed the purification rites after having her menstrual period. Then she returned home. <sup>5</sup> Later, when Bathsheba discovered that she was pregnant, she sent David a message, saying, “I’m pregnant.”

- David was not where he was supposed to be
- Then he did something he wasn't supposed to do
- It cost him more than he ever planned to pay
- Being in the wrong place never helps you do the right thing

Verse 2 says he *noticed or saw* a woman  
*ra'ah* – “to gaze, to stare, or to look intently”  
*Like a bird of prey before swooping down on its prey*

*Living by the Spirit's Power*

**Galatians 5:16 (NLT)**

<sup>16</sup> So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.

The enemy desires to tempt us to pull us away from God and ruin our lives

**James 1:14-15 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

*“Oh what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive!” – Sir Walter Scott*

Our mind and spirit tell us no but the body says yes  
We decide to sin and then try to cover it up

**2 Samuel 11:6-15** David plans to cover his sin

**Plan A:** *Bring Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, back from the war. Spending the night at home with his wife, surely they'd share a little wine, listen to some Michael Buble, and nine months later, Uriah would assume the baby was his. Unfortunately for David, when Uriah came home, he refused to dishonor his troops by enjoying his wife and instead slept outside the palace.*

**Plan B:** *Get Uriah drunk and watch his noble valor fall by the wayside. Sounds like a logical plan, but once again, even three sheets to the wind, Uriah slept outside his house to honor God and his men.*

**Plan C:** *Send Uriah back to the war, put him on the front lines, and pray he gets killed in battle.*

**2 Samuel 11:14–15 (NLT)**

<sup>14</sup> So the next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and gave it to Uriah to deliver. <sup>15</sup> The letter instructed Joab, “Station Uriah on the front lines where the battle is fiercest. Then pull back so that he will be killed.”

**Your Plan A:** *You erase the history on your iPhone, iPad, or laptop, hoping no one discovers the sites you’ve visited. Or you hide the bottle so no one knows what pills you popped or drinks you drank. You bury the wrappers, packages, or jugs from all the candy, chips, and ice cream you devoured.*

**Your Plan B:** *If you get caught, lie. Deflect. Make up a wild story involving “a friend” who’s addicted to whatever the evidence would indicate. You’re really trying to help this friend, but it’s so hard when she’s in such pain and denial. Oh, this isn’t something you would ever do, just your friend. You’re innocent as long as you don’t change your story.*

**Your Plan C:** *If plan B doesn't work, play the victim. Blame the other person, or your spouse, or your kids, or your parents, or your pastor, or your congressman. Shout. Tell the person that if they had been doing what they were supposed to be doing, then you wouldn't have done what you did. Whatever you do, don't take responsibility for your own sins.*

No matter how hard you try, you are not hiding from God

**Luke 8:17 (NLT)**

<sup>17</sup> For all that is secret will eventually be brought into the open, and everything that is concealed will be brought to light and made known to all.

Time to come clean

**2 Samuel 12:1–7 (NLT)**

So the LORD sent Nathan the prophet to tell David this story: “There were two men in a certain town. One was rich, and one was poor. <sup>2</sup> The rich man owned a great many sheep and cattle. <sup>3</sup> The poor man owned nothing but one little lamb he had bought. He raised that little lamb, and it grew up with his children. It ate from the man's own plate and drank from his cup. He cuddled it in his arms like a baby daughter. <sup>4</sup> One day a guest arrived at the home of the rich man. But instead of killing an animal from his own flock or herd, he took the poor man's lamb and killed it and prepared it for his guest.”

<sup>5</sup> David was furious. “As surely as the LORD lives,” he vowed, “any man who would do such a thing deserves to die! <sup>6</sup> He must repay four lambs to the poor man for the one he stole and for having no pity.”

<sup>7</sup> Then Nathan said to David, “You are that man! The LORD, the God of Israel, says: I anointed you king of Israel and saved you from the power of Saul.

- David repents and receives forgiveness but pays for his decision through the death of the Child he fathered
- Sexual sin and rebellion infect his family until the day of his death
- His son Solomon’s heart is turned away by the foreign gods of his many wives

*Esau* sold his birthright for a bowl of stew

*Samson* sold his secret for a one-night stand

*Judas* sold his soul for thirty pieces of silver

What were they thinking? The answer is, they weren’t

*“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires, not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.” – C.S. Lewis*



The silver coins that Judas betrayed Jesus for were most likely sanctuary shekels  
Each coin may have been worth as little as seventy-two cents  
In today's currency – \$21.60

*The good news is that God can forgive our bad decisions  
One good decision can change the course of the rest of your life  
Every decision has the potential to not only radically change our destiny but the course of human history*

What defining decision do you need to make?  
What risk do you need to take?  
What sacrifice do you need to make?

**1 John 1:9 (NLT)**

<sup>9</sup> But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

John is saying if we want to walk in the light confessing our sin is what brings us out of the darkness and into the light

- Repent
  - Re: to turn back
  - Pent: to the highest, like a penthouse
- We are pointing our heart back in the right direction
- Remorse is not repentance
- It's more than being sorry for getting caught
- It's taking ownership of how you have hurt God and others through your selfishness

## Psalm 51:1–2, 10 –12 (NKJV)

- <sup>1</sup> Have mercy upon me, O God,  
According to Your lovingkindness;  
According to the multitude of Your tender mercies,  
Blot out my transgressions.
- <sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
And cleanse me from my sin.
- <sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from Your presence,  
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
- <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,  
And uphold me *by Your* generous Spirit.

## 2 parts of confession

Confess to God for forgiveness

Confess to another to bring healing and lasting freedom

## James 5:16 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

- Through humility comes freedom and power
- Receive strength and encouragement to overcome falling into the same trap again