# When our failures meet God's Grace— Sermon 9

当我们的失败遇见上帝的恩典——第九篇讲道

## 2 Samuel 撒母耳记下 12:1–13

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Throughout this series on 1 and 2 Samuel, we have been looking at the stories of people's lives—Hannah, Samuel, Saul, David, and many others whose lives were intertwined with theirs. This is the last message of this series. I encourage you to read 1&2 Samuel yourself, you may find God has other messages for you in the life stories of these people.

在这一系列关于《撒母耳记上、下》的讲道中，我们一直在看一个又一个人的生命故事——哈拿、撒母耳、扫罗、大卫，以及许多与他们生命交织在一起的人。今天是这一系列的最后一篇信息。我鼓励大家自己去读《撒母耳记上、下》；也许透过这些人的生命故事，上帝还有别的话要对你说。

And isn't that true of us too? Our lives are woven into one another's stories. My story is being written alongside yours. And together, we are part of God's greater story of salvation.

我们的人生不也是这样吗？我们的生命与别人的故事交织在一起。我的故事与你的故事同时写下，而我们大家的故事，又一同成为上帝救赎大故事的一部分。

My hope throughout this series is that you will recognize that your life matters. Your choices matter. Your actions matter. They are the ink with which the story of your life is written within God's greater story.

我盼望，透过这一系列的信息，你能看见自己的生命是重要的。你的选择很重要，你的行动也很重要。它们就像笔墨，把你的人生故事写进上帝更宏大的故事里。

Today, we come to one of the darkest chapters in David's life. It is not the end of his story, but it is an event that will haunt him for the rest of his days. Some experiences are like that, aren't they? We look back and wish we could undo what happened. This is the story of David's greatest moral failure.

今天，我们来到大卫生命中最黑暗的篇章之一。这不是他故事的终点，却是一件让他余生都无法摆脱的事。有些经历不就是这样吗？回首往事，我们真希望能够挽回已经发生的一切。这是大卫在道德上最严重的一次失败。

By this time, David has become comfortable as king. Chapter 11 begins with a seemingly innocent statement: "In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war," David sent Joab and his men into battle, "but David remained in Jerusalem."

到了这个时候，大卫已经很习惯作王的安逸生活。第十一章一开始，看似不经意地说：“过了一年，到列王出战的时候”，大卫差派约押和军队出去打仗，“大卫仍住在耶路撒冷”。

Why does the storyteller include that little detail? Perhaps he is giving us a glimpse into David's spiritual condition. Instead of leading his people, David is enjoying the comforts of his palace. He has become accustomed to being king—and having his own way.

为什么叙事者要特别提起这个小细节？或许，他要让我们窥见大卫当时属灵生命的光景。大卫没有亲自带领百姓，反而在王宫里享受舒适的生活。他已经习惯了作王，也习惯了凡事照自己的意思去做。

And that gets him into terrible trouble.

结果，这把他带进了极大的麻烦。

When we think of David, two names often come to mind: Goliath and Bathsheba. Goliath was a giant warrior; Bathsheba was a beautiful woman. David faced Goliath as a young, untested shepherd. He encountered Bathsheba as a seasoned king, experienced in battle and accustomed to power.

提起大卫，我们常常想到两个名字：歌利亚和拔示巴。歌利亚是个高大的战士；拔示巴是个美丽的女子。大卫面对歌利亚时，是个年轻、未经战场考验的牧羊人；遇见拔示巴时，却已经是个身经百战、习惯掌权的君王。

Both encounters tested David's character. But there is a difference. Goliath threatened David's life; David's own abuse of power destroyed the lives of others. He took Bathsheba, another man's wife, and then arranged for her husband, Uriah, to be killed to cover up his sin.

这两次遭遇都考验了大卫的品格，但其中有一个重要的分别：歌利亚威胁的是大卫的生命；大卫自己滥用权力，却毁坏了别人的生命。他把别人的妻子拔示巴据为己有，又为了掩盖自己的罪，安排她的丈夫乌利亚被杀。

Throughout chapter 11, notice how David exercises his power. He sends for Bathsheba. He sends for Uriah. He sends instructions to Joab. David is doing all the sending. He is in control—or so he thinks.

留意第十一章，大卫怎样运用自己的权力。他派人去召拔示巴，又派人去召乌利亚，再派人给约押送指示。一直在差派人的，都是大卫。他以为一切都在自己的掌控之中。

Then, at the beginning of chapter 12, everything changes.- God sends Nathan to David.

然而，到了第十二章开头，一切都改变了——上帝差派拿单去见大卫。

Suddenly, David is no longer the one calling the shots. The man who thought he controlled everything is confronted by the One who is truly King.

突然之间，大卫不再是那个发号施令的人。这个以为自己掌控一切的人，如今必须面对那位真正的君王。
And when all the sending is done, the one act of sending that matters most is God's.
等到这一连串的“差派”结束，我们才看见：最重要的一次差派，是上帝的差派。

And the news is not good for David. Nathan tells him a parable about a rich man who steals from a poor man who has very little. The story stirs David’s righteous anger, so much so that he declares the man deserves to die (verse 5). But David does not yet see himself in the story.

对大卫来说，这可不是好消息。拿单向他讲了一个比喻：一个富有的人，竟然夺走一个几乎一无所有的穷人的东西。这个故事激起大卫义愤填膺，他甚至宣告那人该死（第 5 节）。可是，大卫还没有看出，故事说的正是他自己。

Often that is the case, isn’t it? We do not always recognize the horror of sin while we are caught up in it. In fact, sin can feel pretty good at the time. Think of David: playing king, taking what he wants, and then thinking he is clever enough to cover up what he has done.

我们不也常常如此吗？当我们陷在罪中，未必看得清罪有多可怕。事实上，犯罪的时候甚至可能觉得挺不错。想想大卫：摆出君王的架势，想要什么就拿什么，还自以为聪明，能够把所做的事掩盖起来。

And then the word of the real King comes to David through Nathan: You are the man!” You could have heard a pin drop at that pronouncement. God’s word becomes deeply personal. 然后，真正君王的话借着拿单临到大卫： 你就是那人！”我想，当时一定静得连一根针掉在地上都听得见。上帝的话一下子变得那么切身。

Nathan moves from the parable to the reality of David's own life. You are the man." And there are times when God's word confronts you and me just as personally. It is you, it is me, with whom God is dealing.

拿单从比喻转到大卫自己的真实生活： 你就是那人！"有时候，上帝的话也这样直接对你、对我说话。上帝所要面对、所要处理的，就是你，就是我。

And here is where that characteristic of David I mentioned last week becomes so important to his redemption. David is now one of the most powerful men in the world. He could have ordered his guards to kill Nathan right there.

到了这里，我上星期提到的大卫那一种品格，就成了他得以回转的重要关键。大卫如今是世上最有权势的人之一。他大可以当场命令侍卫杀掉拿单。

After all, Nathan has just confronted the king! His sin could have remained buried, as so many sins do. But buried sins are like cancer cells, quietly growing and choking the life out of us.

毕竟，拿单刚刚公开指责了王！这样，他的罪就可能继续被埋藏起来，正如许多人的罪一样。但被埋藏的罪就像癌细胞，在暗中不断生长，慢慢吞噬我们的生命。

Instead, David's humility comes through. He makes no excuses. He recognizes what he has done, takes responsibility for his actions, and admits, I have sinned against the Lord." Notice how personal that response is: I have sinned." Me. All me.

然而，大卫显出了谦卑。他没有找借口。他承认自己做过的事，承担自己的责任，并且说： 我得罪耶和华了。"留意这句话是多么切身： 我犯罪了。"是我，完全是我。

Healing begins when we stop blaming others for everything that has gone wrong in our lives and begin to face our own choices, our responses to others, and our actions. We may not be responsible for everything that has happened to us, but we are responsible for what we have done.

当我们不再把生命中一切不如意都归咎于别人，开始面对自己的选择、怎样回应别人，以及自己的行为，医治才有可能开始。发生在我们身上的事，不一定都是我们的责任；但我们做过的事，却要由自己负责。

David says, I have sinned against the Lord." That is a profound recognition.

大卫说："我得罪耶和华了。"这是多么深刻的醒悟。

There is something at the very heart of the Christian faith in this simple confession and in God's response of forgiveness. 在这简单的认罪，以及上帝赦免他的回应中，我们看见基督信仰最核心的真理之一。

We see the depth of David's confession and repentance in Psalm 51. David pours out his heart to God. He knows he has wronged Bathsheba, Uriah, Joab, and even the soldiers whose lives he used in his attempt to destroy Uriah. But he also recognizes that he has betrayed the trust God placed in him. Kingship was a gift, a calling, and a responsibility. Listen to David's words:

在诗篇第五十一篇，我们看见大卫认罪悔改有多深。他向上帝倾心吐意。他知道自己伤害了拔示巴、乌利亚、约押，甚至那些被他利用、为了除掉乌利亚而牺牲的士兵。但他也认识到，自己辜负了上帝所托付的信任。王位是恩赐，是呼召，也是责任。听听大卫怎么说：

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight." (Psalm 51:3–4)

"因为我知道我的过犯；我的罪常在我面前。我向你犯罪，惟独得罪了你；在你眼前行了这恶。"（诗篇51:3–4）

We cannot, and must not, downplay the enormous harm David has done to others. His confession to God does not erase that harm. But David recognizes that he has also broken the trust of the One who entrusted him with kingship. God did not make David king so that David could play God. He gave him this responsibility so that God's just rule could be displayed through Israel. David was called to show God's justice, mercy, and grace. Instead, he took what he wanted from the very people he should have protected.

我们不能，也绝不应该淡化大卫对别人的巨大伤害。他向上帝认罪，并不代表这些伤害就不存在了。但大卫明白，他也辜负了那位把王权托付给他的上帝。上帝立大卫为王，不是让他把自己当成上帝。上帝把这个责任交给他，是要透过以色列彰显祂公义的治理。大卫蒙召要活出上帝的公义、怜悯和恩典；结果他反而从那些本该由他保护的人身上夺取自己想要的东西。

But as enormous as David's sin was, the amazing thing about this passage is that God forgives him. David will continue to suffer the consequences of his actions, yet God does not abandon him. I think this is simply extraordinary. What kind of God would do such a thing? Think of it. David has taken another man's wife and arranged for that man's death, and yet God says his sin has been taken away. That is not the same as saying his actions no longer matter.

然而，大卫的罪虽然如此严重，这段经文最令人惊讶的，竟是上帝赦免了他。大卫仍要承受自己行为的后果，但上帝没有撇弃他。我觉得这实在不可思议。究竟是怎样的一位上帝，才会这样做？想一想：大卫夺了别人的妻子，又安排杀害那人的丈夫；可是上帝竟然说，他的罪已经被除掉了。这绝不等于说，他的行为从此没有后果。

David has blown it in a big way. And in many ways, he will never fully recover from what he has done. One son will rape his sister; another will kill his brother; and another will rebel against David, take his concubines, and attempt to seize the throne. Talk about a dysfunctional family! 大卫这次真是犯下了大错。从许多方面来说，他一生都无法完全摆脱所造成的伤害。他的一个儿子强暴了自己的妹妹；另一个儿子杀了兄弟；还有一个儿子背叛大卫，玷污他的妃嫔，企图夺取王位。真是一个充满破碎的家庭！

God says the sword will never depart from David's house. These painful consequences will become part of his story. Yet the covenant God made with David remains intact. It will be fulfilled in part through Solomon, David's son, but ultimately through Jesus of Nazareth, who comes from David's line. Even this terrible sin cannot undermine God's purpose to save and redeem humanity.

上帝说，刀剑必永不离开大卫的家。这些痛苦的后果，都会成为他生命故事的一部分。然而，上帝与大卫所立的约仍然有效。这约部分地透过大卫的儿子所罗门实现，最终却在出自大卫后裔的拿撒勒人耶稣身上成全。即使如此可怕的罪，也不能破坏上帝拯救、救赎人类的旨意。

What we learn from David is that, no matter how badly we have failed, God is able to restore and renew us. No matter how great the sin, God's forgiveness is available to those who turn to Him.

我们从大卫身上学到：无论我们失败得多么严重，上帝仍然能够修复、更新我们的生命。无论罪有多大，凡愿意转向祂的人，都可以领受祂的赦免。

Eugene Peterson, commenting on this verse, makes this observation:

尤金·彼得森（Eugene Peterson）在评论这节经文时，有这样一段观察：

One of the frequent misunderstandings of the biblical story by outsiders is that a confession of sin is a grovelling admission that I am a terrible person, a tactic sometimes described as  beating yourself up." Insiders to the story soon learn that the sentence  I have sinned against the Lord" is full of hope.  It is full of hope because it is full of God…Only when we recognize our sin are we in a position to recognize and respond to the God who forgives our sin.

许多不熟悉圣经故事的人，常常误以为认罪就是卑躬屈膝地承认自己是个糟糕透顶的人，也就是所谓的"不断责打自己"。但真正进入圣经故事的人，很快就会发现，"我得罪耶和华了"这句话充满盼望。它充满盼望，因为其中充满了上帝……只有当我们认识自己的罪，才有可能认识并回应那位赦免我们罪的上帝。

In a mess as great as this, you would think that nothing could be salvaged. Humanly speaking, perhaps nothing could. But God is greater than our failures, and the good news is that even in a mess like this, God is still able to restore and heal. The road back is not easy, but it is possible.

事情弄到这样不可收拾的地步，你大概会以为，再也没有什么可以挽回的了。从人的角度来看，也许真是如此。但上帝比我们的失败更大。福音的好消息就是：即使在这样一团乱的处境里，上帝仍能修复、医治。回头的路并不容易，却仍然有路可走。

Is there any hope for people like David, who have made a mess of their lives? Amazingly, the answer is yes. Psalm 51 is a prayer of repentance from someone who has made a terrible mess of his life. And from David's response, we can learn something about the way back.

像大卫这样把人生弄得一团糟的人，还有盼望吗？奇妙的是，答案是有的。诗篇第五十一篇，就是一个把自己生命弄得一塌糊涂的人所献上的悔改祷告。从大卫的回应，我们可以学习怎样走上回转的路。

So what can we learn from this part of David's story? I want to suggest four lessons.

那么，从大卫故事的这一部分，我们能学到什么？我想提出四个功课。

**1.  Good times, distracts us from obedience** 顺境容易使我们偏离顺服的道路

David should have been attending to his responsibilities as king while his people struggled against the Ammonites. Instead, he stayed behind in Jerusalem. Perhaps he thought he deserved a little rest and relaxation after all he had been through. And there is nothing necessarily wrong with a king staying behind.

当百姓与亚扪人争战时，大卫本该尽君王的责任，但他却留在耶路撒冷。或许他觉得，经历了那么多事，自己也该好好休息、放松一下了。其实，君王留在后方，本身并不一定有什么不对。

But I think the storyteller includes that little detail for a reason. It gives us a context for what follows. When times are good, it can take even more effort to stay attentive to God. There are so many things that distract us. When times are hard, our needs are obvious, and we often cry out for God's help and presence.

不过，我想叙事者特别提到这件事，是有原因的。它为后面发生的事铺陈了背景。生活顺利的时候，要持续留心上帝，反而可能需要更多努力，因为使我们分心的事太多了。艰难的时候，我们很清楚自己的需要，往往会呼求上帝的帮助和同在。

But the truth is that we need God just as much in times of plenty as in times of need. God's ways do not change with our circumstances. We do. And for people like us, living with so many comforts, it takes intentional effort to remember that all we have comes from God. In times of plenty, we may need to be more attentive to Him, not less.

但事实上，无论富足或缺乏，我们同样需要上帝。上帝的道路不会随着我们的环境改变；改变的是我们。像我们这样生活在许多舒适便利中的人，更需要刻意提醒自己：一切所有的，都是从上帝而来的。越是在丰足的日子，我们可能越需要留心祂，而不是越少。

A pastor I met years ago made made this observation: it can be easier for those who have little to be generous because they have less to lose, while those who have much may find generosity more difficult because they have more to hold on to.

多年前，我认识的一位牧师说过这样的话：拥有不多的人，可能更容易慷慨，因为他们觉得自己可以失去的较少；而拥有很多的人，可能更难慷慨，因为他们有更多不愿放手的东西

I think there is something here for all of us to consider. When we are in need, it can feel easier to look to God, to pray more fervently, and to seek Him in worship. But when things are going well, we can become self-absorbed. That is when we may need more discipline to remain attentive to God's word and ways. So…when things are going well, we more than ever need to _

我觉得这值得我们每个人思考。当我们有需要时，好像比较容易仰望上帝，更迫切地祷告，在敬拜中寻求祂。但当一切顺利，我们也可能变得只顾自己。正是在这种时候，我们需要更多操练，继续留心上帝的话和祂的道路。所以……当生活顺利时，我们比任何时候都更需要——

**2. Stay Rooted in God Through Daily Practices** 借着每天的属灵操练，扎根于上帝

Psalm 51 is David's prayer of repentance after his terrible sins against Bathsheba and Uriah. His confession does not erase the wrongs he has done or their consequences. But it reminds us that, even when we fail, God's mercy offers us a way forward.

诗篇第五十一篇，是大卫在严重伤害拔示巴和乌利亚之后所献上的悔改祷告。他的认罪没有抹去所犯的错，也没有消除后果。但这提醒我们：即使失败，上帝的怜悯仍为我们开出一条前面的路。

David's prayer also teaches us how to guard our hearts against the things that draw us away from God, especially when life is going well and we become comfortable or complacent.

大卫的祷告也教导我们，怎样保守自己的心，不被那些使我们远离上帝的事牵走，特别是在生活顺遂、我们开始安逸或自满的时候。

So, let me leave you with five simple practices from Psalm 51:11–13 that can help us stay grounded in Christ. 因此，让我从诗篇 51:11–13 与大家分享五个简单的操练，帮助我们继续在基督里站稳。

**1. Seek God's Presenc**e —, Do not cast me from your presence" Make worship and communion with God central to your daily life. (v. 11)

1. 寻求上帝的同在——"不要丢弃我，使我离开你的面。"让敬拜上帝、与祂相交，成为每天生活的中心。（第 11 节）

**2. Stay Attentive to the Spirit**—Learn to wait, listen, and depend on the Spirit rather than your own strength. (v. 11) Do not take your Holy Spirit from me" (verse 11)

2. 留心圣灵的引导——学习等候、聆听、倚靠圣灵，而不是只靠自己的力量。"不要从我收回你的圣灵。"（第 11 节）

**3. Savour God's Goodness** — Recall His faithfulness, especially when life is difficult, and rediscover the joy of His salvation.  Restore to me the joy of your salvation" (verse 12

3. 品尝上帝的美善——回想祂的信实，特别是在艰难中，重新得着祂救恩的喜乐。"求你使我仍得救恩之乐。"（第 12 节）

**4. Surrender** — Allow God to renew your heart and give you a willing spirit to follow Him. (v. 12) grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me" (verse 12). Learn to surrender your disappointments, accept what you cannot change, and remain open to God's leading. (v. 12)

4. 学习降服——让上帝更新你的心，赐你乐意跟随祂的灵。"赐我乐意的灵扶持我。"（第 12 节）学习把失望交托给祂，接受无法改变的事，并继续向祂的带领敞开心。

**5. Share God's Grace** — Let your experience of God's mercy become a testimony that helps others find their way back to Him. (v. 13)

5. 分享上帝的恩典——让自己蒙怜悯的经历成为见证，帮助别人找到回到上帝面前的路。（第 13 节）

These spiritual practices intentionally refocus our hearts and helps us to slow down. They are especially important when things are going well, because there are many distractions that draw us away from fellowship with God. And when that happens, we can begin to live as though we ourselves are god.

这些属灵操练，帮助我们有意识地把心重新转向上帝，也让生活的脚步慢下来。尤其在顺境中，它们格外重要，因为许多事情会分散我们的心，使我们远离与上帝的团契。当这种事发生，我们就可能开始活得好像自己才是上帝。

Life has gone well for David. Accustomed to power, he has forgotten that he is a servant of the true King. And that can happen to us too. Who is king in our lives, especially when no one is watching? Our private lives matter as much as our public lives. That is why we need a community of trusted friends to keep us honest and accountable helping us to align our lives with God's word and way.

大卫的日子过得太顺了。他习惯了手中的权力，竟忘记自己不过是真正君王的仆人。我们也可能这样。特别是在没有人看见的时候，究竟谁是我们生命的王？我们的私生活与公开的生活同样重要。因此，我们需要一群值得信赖的朋友，帮助我们诚实面对自己，彼此守望、彼此督促，使我们的生命更合乎上帝的话和祂的道路。

Henri Nouwen once said it was difficult for him to be good all by himself.

亨利·卢云（Henri Nouwen）曾说过，单靠自己，要作一个好人实在不容易。

**3.  Have the Courage to Own Our Mistakes.** 要有勇气承认自己的错误

We live in a culture where blaming others can come easily.  The devil made me do it." "My parents didn't bring me up properly." "I was hurt as a child." Some of those experiences may be very real, and they can shape us deeply. But we still need to face the choices we make and the actions we take.

我们活在一个很容易责怪别人的文化里。"都是魔鬼害我这样做。""我父母没有把我教好。""我小时候受过伤害。"这些经历可能都是真的，也可能深深影响了我们。但我们仍然需要面对自己的选择，以及自己所做的事。

I was once at a Gamblers Anonymous gathering. The man leading the group stood up and said, Hi, my name is Van, and I'm a gambler." He then went on to tell the story of his life. I am told that for many people struggling with addiction, the road to recovery begins with telling the truth about themselves and taking responsibility for their actions.

有一次，我参加一个戒赌互助会的聚会。带领聚会的人站起来说："大家好，我叫范，我是个赌徒。"接着，他开始讲述自己的人生故事。我听说，对许多与成瘾挣扎的人来说，复原的起点，就是诚实面对自己，并为自己的行为承担责任。

I am reminded of Jesus healing the man at the pool of Bethesda in John 5:1–14. The man had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. And Jesus asked him a curious question: Do you want to get well?"

这让我想起约翰福音 5:1–14，耶稣在毕士大池边医治一个人的故事。那人已经病了三十八年。耶稣却问他一个很特别的问题："你要痊愈吗？"

What a curious question! Isn't it obvious? The poor man has been suffering for so many years. Of course he wants to get well. Yet instead of answering Jesus directly, he explains why he has been unable to reach the pool.

这是什么问题呢？答案不是很明显吗？这个可怜的人已经受苦这么多年，当然想痊愈！可是，他没有直接回答耶稣，反而解释自己为什么一直没办法下到池子里。

We should not dismiss the man's suffering or the difficulties he faced. But how often do we focus on what others have done to us and forget that we still have choices? Life may have dealt us a bad hand, and others may have hurt us. Yet we are responsible for how we respond. And when we have sinned, we need the courage to admit it rather than blame others.

我们不应该轻看这个人的痛苦，或他实际面对的困难。但我们有多少时候，只顾着别人怎样伤害我们，却忘了自己仍然可以作出选择？人生也许给了我们一手烂牌，别人也可能真的伤害过我们。然而，我们怎样回应，仍然是自己的责任。当我们犯了罪，就需要勇气承认，而不是把责任推给别人。

You are the man," Nathan says to David. And David finally faces the truth. You and I are also responsible for the way we choose to live, in times of suffering and in times of plenty.

拿单对大卫说："你就是那人！"大卫终于面对了真相。不论在苦难中还是在丰足时，你和我，都要为自己选择怎样生活负责。

**4. Never underestimate the power of two simple words: I'm sorry.** 不要低估简单一句**"**对不起**"**的力量

When spoken sincerely, they can open the door to forgiveness, healing, and reconciliation.

当这句话发自真心，它可以为饶恕、医治与和好打开一扇门。

I am sure many of us have experienced the freedom these words can bring, whether we have spoken them to others or heard them spoken to us.

我相信我们当中许多人都经历过这句话带来的释放，无论是我们向别人说，还是别人对我们说。

"In December 2000, CBS News reported a remarkable story about a son who searched for his father after twenty years of separation." A man named Jon Dupre had spent years struggling with the pain of his father's absence. When he finally confronted his father, the encounter became so emotional that Jon lost control of his anger.Afterward, as they sat together on a bench, there was a long silence….Then his father finally said two words: "I'm sorry."

2000 年 12 月，美国哥伦比亚广播公司（CBS News）报道了一个动人的故事：一个儿子在与父亲分离二十年后，终于去寻找他。一位名叫乔恩·杜普雷（Jon Dupre）的男子，多年来一直被父亲缺席所带来的伤痛困扰。当他终于面对父亲，情绪激动得失去了控制，愤怒爆发出来。后来，两人并肩坐在一张长椅上，沉默了很久……最后，父亲终于说出两个字："对不起。"

Jon later recalled that he knew his father meant it. In that moment, he found himself forgiving the man whose absence had caused him so much pain. Years of hurt were not erased. But those simple words opened a door that had been closed for a long time

乔恩后来回忆说，他知道父亲说这句话是真心的。就在那一刻，他发现自己竟然能够饶恕这个多年缺席、带给他那么多痛苦的人。多年的伤害没有因此消失，但这句简单的话，打开了一扇关闭了许久的门。

Children who hear these words from Parents, Parents who hear these words from wayward children, friends who hear them from one another, and loved ones who have hurt each other know how powerful the words I am sorry" can be.

孩子听见父母说"对不起"，父母听见走偏了路的孩子说"对不起"，朋友彼此这样说，彼此伤害过的亲人也这样说——他们都知道，"对不起"这句话有多大的力量。

At the very least, these words open the door to hope—hope for healing and restoring broken relationships. I know people who still carry deep pain because those who hurt them have never acknowledged their wrong. A sincere apology cannot undo the past, but it can begin the healing. These are powerful words, folks. They can heal others, free us from pride, and open our hearts to God's mercy and grace.

至少，这句话能打开盼望的门，让破裂的关系有机会得到医治和修复。我认识一些人，心里至今仍带着深深的伤痛，因为伤害他们的人从来没有承认自己的错。真诚的道歉不能改变过去，却能成为医治的开始。弟兄姊妹，这句话真有力量。它能帮助别人得医治，使我们脱离骄傲，也使我们的心向上帝的怜悯与恩典敞开。

David knew how to confess his wrong, and there is a lesson here for us. I believe three simple phrases can change lives: I love you," "I am sorry," and I forgive you."

大卫懂得怎样承认自己的错，这对我们也是一个功课。我相信，有三句简单的话可以改变人的生命："我爱你"，"对不起"，还有"我饶恕你"。

Think about it. Some of us carry wounds from the past and struggle to forgive. Others carry guilt and shame and need the courage to say, I am sorry." Still others come from broken families or relationships and long to hear, I love you."

想一想：我们当中有些人仍背负着过去的伤痕，很难饶恕；有些人心里充满内疚和羞愧，需要勇气说"对不起"；还有些人来自破碎的家庭或关系，心里多么渴望听到一句"我爱你"。

How many of us need to hear these words? And how many of us need to say them? They may not change the past, but they can open our hearts to God's healing grace.

我们当中有多少人需要听见这些话？又有多少人需要亲口把这些话说出来？这些话未必能改变过去，却能使我们的心向上帝医治的恩典敞开。

When we read David's story, these three words—love, sorry, forgive—seem to run through it. And the story of David's failure should encourage us. If David, who committed adultery and murder, could be forgiven and changed, then there is hope for all of us.

当我们读大卫的故事，仿佛处处都看见这三个词：爱、道歉、饶恕。大卫失败的故事，应该给我们带来鼓励。如果犯了奸淫和杀人罪的大卫仍可以蒙赦免、生命得改变，那么我们每一个人都有盼望。

One of the most encouraging themes throughout the Bible is that those we remember as heroes of the faith were flawed human beings. The biblical story does not hide their weaknesses, failures, or sins. It shows us people who need the grace of God, just as we do.

整本圣经有一个非常鼓舞人的主题：那些被我们称为信心伟人的，也都是有缺点的人。圣经没有掩饰他们的软弱、失败和罪，而是让我们看见，他们和我们一样，都需要上帝的恩典。

God does not love us because of what we can do for Him. He loves us even when we can do nothing. This is what makes grace so extraordinary: it is not something we can earn.

上帝爱我们，不是因为我们能为祂做什么。即使我们什么都做不了，祂仍然爱我们。恩典之所以如此奇妙，就因为它不是靠我们的表现赚取的。

I remember speaking with an abbot of the Hare Krishna movement many years ago. He said to me,  Oh, it's not hard to see god. I see god everywhere. What's hard is for god to see me." That conversation has stayed with me. How easily we can come to think that we have to do something to make God notice us. But the good news of Jesus is that He sees you even when you do not see Him. He looks for you even when you are not looking for Him. And He loves you even when you do not love Him back.

我记得很多年前，曾经与一位"哈瑞奎师那"（Hare Krishna）运动的修院长谈话。他对我说："看见神并不难，我到处都能看见神。难的是让神看见我。"这段对话一直留在我心里。我们多么容易以为，必须做点什么，上帝才会注意到我们。但耶稣所带来的好消息是：即使你看不见祂，祂仍然看见你；即使你没有寻找祂，祂仍然在寻找你；即使你没有回应祂的爱，祂仍然爱你。

The story of David—in fact, the stories of 1 and 2 Samuel—reveals the incredible generosity of God's grace. Hannah, Samuel, Saul, and David: people with flaws and weaknesses, people who knew failure, and yet people whose stories became part of God's greater story. Perhaps nowhere is that grace more astonishing than in the story of David and Bathsheba. If God could say to an adulterer, a murderer, a manipulator, and a schemer,  The Lord has taken away your sin," then what about me? What about you? Is there not hope for us as well? Our failures are part of our story, but by God's grace, they need not be the final chapter. **For our failures do not have the final word. God's grace does.** Amen.

大卫的故事——其实整卷《撒母耳记上、下》的故事——向我们显明上帝恩典何等丰盛。哈拿、撒母耳、扫罗和大卫，都是有缺点、有软弱，也经历过失败的人；然而，他们的故事都成为上帝更伟大故事的一部分。也许，最令人惊讶的恩典，就显在大卫和拔示巴的故事里。如果上帝能够对一个犯奸淫、杀人、操纵别人、处心积虑的人说：“耶和华已经除掉你的罪”，那么我呢？你呢？我们岂不也有盼望吗？我们的失败确实是人生故事的一部分，但靠着上帝的恩典，它不必成为最后一章。因为最后发言的，不是我们的失败，而是上帝的恩典。阿们。

Maybe you've come here this morning with a heavy burden and a wounded heart. What ever burden you are carrying, what ever hurt you are holding on to,- today with God's help you can lay it down, you can let it go, you can learn to say I love you", I am sorry" and I forgive"…

也许今天早上，你带着沉重的担子、受伤的心来到这里。无论你正背负什么重担，无论你紧抓着什么伤痛，今天，靠着上帝的帮助，你可以把它放下，可以慢慢学会放手，也可以学习说：“我爱你”、“对不起”、“我饶恕你”……

And if you don't know this God, you don't know Jesus, today, you can begin your a new direction in your life and choose to follow Him…

如果你还不认识这位上帝，还不认识耶稣，今天你就可以在人生中踏上新的道路，选择跟随祂……

After the Benediction, if you need prayer, I am here to pray with you.

祝福祷告结束后，如果你需要有人为你祷告，我愿意留下来与你一起祷告。

24 The LORD bless you and keep you; 25 the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you 26 the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. (Nu 6:24–26). (2025). Crossway Bibles.

“愿耶和华赐福给你，保护你。愿耶和华使他的脸光照你，赐恩给你。愿耶和华向你仰脸，赐你平安。”（民数记 6:24–26）