

My Crazy Family

Clean Up Your Mess (Week 3)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

An honest apology engages the head, the heart, and demonstrates our will to change.

Key Scriptures

Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah
Matthew 1:10

Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, following the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites. 2 Chronicles 33:1-2

But Manasseh led Judah and the people of Jerusalem astray, so that they did more evil than the nations the LORD had destroyed before the Israelites.
2 Chronicles 33:9

But if you fail to keep your word, then you will have sinned against the LORD, and you may be sure that your sin will find you out.
Numbers 32:23

In his distress he sought the favor of the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his ancestors. And when he prayed to him, the LORD was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; so he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD is God.
2 Chronicles 33:12-13

Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother or sister; then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5:23-24

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Psalm 32:5

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:16

I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men. So he got up and went to his father.

Luke 15:18-20

An honest apology is the first step to cleaning up the mess our sin makes.

Three pillars of an honest apology:

1. Engage your mind.
2. Engage the heart.
3. Engage the will.

Start talking.

- What are some lame apologies you have received?
- What is the difference between a real and a fake apology?

Start thinking.

- Read through the key scriptures. What are examples of situations where someone's sin found them out?
- Why do we think we can stay ahead of our poor choices?
- How did Manasseh's response to God honor the three pillars?
- Why is getting right with others more important than even worship?
- How did the prodigal son's response honor the three pillars?

Start sharing.

- Which of the three pillars is most difficult?
- Which of the three pillars do you lean toward most?
- What is the key lesson for you from this message?

Start doing.

- What is a mess you need to clean up?
- Who do you need to go to and offer an honest apology?

Closing prayer.

Jesus, I confess that I have sinned against you. I have chosen my own desires over your life-giving instructions. I recognize that my choices have pushed you and others away at times. Forgive me for my sin. Give me the courage to choose you and your ways. Help me to pursue those I have hurt and offer them an honest apology.