

DID DAVID, THE KING "LOSE IT"?

These were words of King David in his Song of Praise towards the end of his 71 years of life:

2 Samuel 22:21–25 *The Lord rewarded me for doing right; he restored me because of my innocence. 22 For I have kept the ways of the Lord; I have not turned from my God to follow evil. 23 I have followed all his regulations; I have never abandoned his decrees. 24 I am blameless before God; I have kept myself from sin. 25 The Lord rewarded me for doing right. He has seen my innocence. [NLT]*

For the record, David was the man who first seduced Bathsheba into adultery:

2 Samuel 11:2–4 *It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. 3 David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." 4 So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. [NRSV]*

Then, to help hide the adultery and cover the consequent pregnancy, David had Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, murdered, with this instruction to the commanding general in the field:

2 Samuel 11:15–17 *In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die." 16 As Joab was besieging the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant warriors. 17 The men of the city came out and fought with Joab; and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite was killed as well. [NRSV]*

So, at first, the words of David's Song of Praise may be interpreted either as the genuine product of a misrepresenting career politician or as the mild sign of old age *dementia*.

However, when we remember and reflect on what God told David by means of the prophet Nathan, who had confronted him with his sin, we begin to understand a reality, which is much different — completely different:

2 Samuel 12:13 *..... David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has taken away your sin; you shall not die." [NASB]*

David, when confronted with his sin, did not manufacture excuses. David repented immediately and recognized that his sin was — first and foremost — against the Lord.

The Lord took away David's sin.

Since the Lord had taken away David's sin, there was no sin anywhere around to be seen or found and he was cleansed: he was "blameless before the Lord."

Hence, the Song of Praise was not evidence of David's Alzheimer; rather it was — and it is — a powerful testimony of David's faith and of his full trust and belief in the Lord, Who is able to forgive and take away sin — completely: not even a small trace was left.

No, King David did not "lose it"; rather he showed that he had gained life eternal:

John 17:3 *"Eternal life is knowing thee, who art the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." [KNOX]*

David had learned to know Him and what He is able to do. David, once again, is an example for all of us: not in his sinning, but in his believing.

It is indeed true: David was a man "after the heart of God."

Acts 13:22b *..... he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.' [ESV]*

Now, for us, who have confessed our sins to the Lord and have repented:

1 John 1:9 *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. [NLT]*

Do we have enough faith in Him to accept that the redemption by the suffering of the Cross and the glory of the Resurrection is complete?

John 17:4 *"I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." [KJV]*

Do we hence dare say, as David did: "I am blameless before God" and thus be encouraged to eschew future sinning and to walk closer with the Lord?

Or, saddled with unbelief in the work of Christ, are we hesitant or, perhaps, even unsure? Are we thus hurting the Lord and quenching His Spirit?