

1 Samuel 15:30

Then he said, "I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD your God."

"I have sinned, yet bless me anyway" Isn't that what king Saul was saying here? When we read that, it tells us that Saul was not repentant at all of his sins, he just wanted to look good in the eyes of the people, but not in the eyes of God.

On the other hand, the king who took over after Saul, was King David, and when he fell into sin with Bathsheba and having her husband murdered, he acknowledged his sins before God and confessed them to God, not caring what others thought.

† ***Psalm 51:1-4 Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight-- That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.***

When you read the two accounts, you find that there is a big difference between:

† ***"I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel."***

and

† ***"For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight."***

Yet how many times do we confess our sins, and we do because we are sorry? But the question is, are we sorry like king Saul, or like king David? King Saul was sorry because he got caught, yet king David was sorry because he knew that what he did was wrong, and not only wrong, but that his wrong was against God.

It would be like someone in church saying to you, *"Didn't I see you in the bar, all drunk and walking out with a woman (or man), who wasn't your wife (or husband)?"*

And your response to them would be, *"I will ask for God's forgiveness, and God will forgive me for drinking and hooking up with that woman (or man). But please don't tell anyone else in the church that you saw me doing that, because I would be so embarrassed."*

That's not repentance, that is being sorry that you got caught, like king Saul, and not wanting everyone else to find out, because you are more concerned with your own reputation and what others think about you, then God and what He thinks or feels about it.

Repentance means that we hate what we have done, and we make a 180 degree, turning around and going away from that sin. Confession does not mean that you just confess it then stand over it and saying, “*God bless me anyway*” like Saul did, but it’s rather confessing it and being like king David by saying “***Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness***” Crying out to God for forgiveness with a repentant heart and action.

It's like a man saying to his wife, “*I had an affair, but forgive me and stay with me anyway, we can get through this, just don't tell anyone.*” And then walking out the door to have another affair. No, he is just trying to hide his sin from everyone else on how he sinned against his wife by saying, “*Let's stay together anyway and not tell anyone else.*” Not because he loves her, but because he doesn't want others to know that he doesn't love her.

That's what it's like when we confess our sins, and are not repentant or we do nothing to show repentance, we are being a hypocrite (an actor) pretending that we love the Lord, but the reality is that we don't want others to know that we love our sins more than the Lord, and we are trying to hide it, like king Saul did, and our words of “*I'm sorry, forgive me*” are only there because we want to get to heaven, yet we want to continue to live like we are going to hell.

Remember, the bible says to confess our sins and repent, not confess our sins and repeat.

† **Psalm 139:1-7** *O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it. Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?*

† **1 John 3:18-20 (NLT2)** *Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God. Even if we feel guilty, God is greater than our feelings, and he knows everything.*