

— SERMON SERIES —

Rising Again

Finding Strength After Failure

God's grace gives
a second chance.



The Worst King, The Greatest Mercy (October 4, 2026), Shalom Ministries International Worship

Goodness of God

I love You, Lord
Oh, Your mercy never failed me
And all my days, I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night You are close like no other
I've known You as a Father
I've known You as a Friend
Oh, I have lived in the goodness of God

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
'Cause Your goodness is running after, it's running after me

Intercessory Prayer



Historical Contexts

Kings	Rate	Key Historical Profiles
Ahaz (12 th)	Wicked	Ahaz walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, plunged deep into idolatry, and even sacrificed his own son in the fire, imitating the detestable practices of other nations (2 Kings 16:3). When Syria and Israel attacked, he relied on political alliances with Assyria, closed the doors of the Lord's temple, and set up pagan altars on every street corner in Jerusalem.
Hezekiah (13 th)	Exemplary	Trusted in the Lord more than any king of Judah before or after him (2 Kings 18:5). Tore down high places, broke sacred pillars, smashed the bronze serpent. Faithfully relied on God during the terrifying Assyrian crisis.
Manasseh(14 th)	The Worst	The one who forgets
Amon (15 th)	Wicked	Following in the worst footsteps of his father Manasseh's early reign, he continued sacrificing to idols and refused to humble himself before the Lord. His wicked rule was short-lived, as his own officials conspired against him and assassinated him in his palace after just two years.
Josiah (16 th)	Exemplary	Initiated radical religious reforms. He purged Judah and Jerusalem of idols, repaired the temple, and rediscovered the Book of the Law. No king turned to the Lord with all his heart, soul, and might like Josiah (2 Kings 23:25).

The Worst King Manasseh

- Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. His mother's name was Hephzibah. He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, following the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites. He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had destroyed; he also erected altars to Baal and made an Asherah pole, as Ahab king of Israel had done. He bowed down to all the starry hosts and worshiped them. He built altars in the temple of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem I will put my Name." In the two courts of the temple of the LORD, he built altars to all the starry hosts. He sacrificed his own son in the fire, practiced divination, sought omens, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, arousing his anger (2 Kings 21:1-6).

King Manasseh's Failures

- What he has done
 - Rebuilt the high places Hezekiah had destroyed; Erected altars to Baals; Made Asherah poles; Worshiped the stars; Built pagan altars in the temple; Practiced sorcery and divination; Consulted mediums; Put an idol in God's temple -> Led Judah into evil.
 - Moreover, Manasseh also shed so much innocent blood that he filled Jerusalem from end to end—besides the sin that he had caused Judah to commit, so that they did evil in the eyes of the LORD (2 KINGS 21:16).
- What the Bible says about him
 - He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, arousing his anger (2 Kings 21:6)
 - He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, arousing his anger (2 Chronicles 33:6).
 - 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).
- His life and work
 - He was the most wicked king that ever reigned over Judah.
 - Sin provokes God to anger.
 - A righteous parent does not always produce righteous children (the one who forgets the examples of his parents).

When We Sinned

- God's response was a progressive, yet ultimately firm sequence of warnings.
- The warning through His prophets
 - The LORD said through his servants the prophets... (2 Kings 21:10).
 - God's first response to sin is always to speak, giving space for repentance and turning back before judgment falls.
- The refusal to listen (The hardening of hearts)
 - The Lord spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they **paid no attention** (2 Chronicles 33:10).
 - God takes human free will seriously; when warnings are repeatedly ignored, the stage is set for necessary discipline to break through human pride.
- The discipline and confinement (The wake-up call of adversity)
 - So the LORD brought against them the army commanders of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh prisoner, put a hook in his nose, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon (2 Chronicles 33:11).
- Hearing the cry and showing mercy
 - **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).**

Manasseh the Prodigal King

- The most remarkable transformations in the entire Bible
 - 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).
- Distress and brokenness
 - True repentance often begins when our self-sufficiency collapses. For Manasseh, it took being bound in bronze shackles and hauled away to Babylon by the Assyrians to shatter his pride.
- Humility and earnest prayer
 - *He sought the favor of God*: Manasseh did not make excuses or blame his circumstances; His prayer was a desperate, sorrowful cry for mercy.
- Compassion and restoration
 - The moment Manasseh turned back, God was *moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea*.
- Experiential knowledge of God
 - Through his failure, discipline, and subsequent second chance, he came to know God experientially as a merciful, sovereign Redeemer.

God's Second Chance Produces a New Life

- Manasseh's repentance was genuine
 - He got rid of the foreign gods and removed the image from the temple of the LORD, as well as all the altars he had built on the temple hill and in Jerusalem; and he threw them out of the city. Then he restored the altar of the LORD and sacrificed fellowship offerings and thank offerings on it, and told Judah to serve the LORD, the God of Israel (2 Chronicles 33:15-16).
- His repentance changed his direction
 - Removed foreign gods;
 - Removed the idol from the temple;
 - Destroyed the pagan altars;
 - Restored the altar of the Lord;
 - Offered sacrifices of thanksgiving;
 - Commanded Judah to serve the Lord.
- The power of God's second chance
 - Grace (a 2nd chance) → Repentance → Restoration → Transformation → Service.

The Second Chance from God

- No one is ever too far gone for God's grace
 - If God can rescue and forgive Manasseh—a king who erected pagan altars inside the temple, practiced witchcraft, and shed innocent blood—He can redeem anyone.
- God often uses adversity as a wake-up call
 - Manasseh did not turn back to God while sitting comfortably on his throne in luxury; it took bronze shackles and captivity in Babylon to break his stubborn pride.
- True repentance requires radical humility
 - True repentance means dropping our defenses, owning our brokenness, and surrendering our pride completely to the Lord.
- God's compassion instantly eclipses His anger
 - The moment Manasseh prayed, He was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea.
- A second chance deepens our experiential knowledge of God
 - After his restoration, Manasseh knew God intimately as his personal Redeemer.
 - My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes (Job 42:5-6)