

“I HAVE SINNED”

INTRODUCTION

A. True Courage (Author Unknown)

I have seen a cowboy mount a wild bronco and ride him to a standstill. The bronco would buck, kick, paw, and snort trying to throw the rider. It requires great courage for him to risk life and limb to break a bronco, but that is not the most courageous thing a man can do. If the cowboy makes the ride, he has only conquered an animal.

I have seen fighters in a boxing ring pit their skills against one another. The punishment a fighter receives sometimes is unmerciful. His flesh might be bruised and his body bleeding, but he ignores the pain and fights on. One might think that this is a supreme act of courage, but it is not. The victor has only conquered another man.

I have seen a man come before the church with head bowed low and tears of repentance flowing from his eyes. He had been cut to the heart by God’s word. He had been made to know the misery and consequence of sin. He utters a painful and humbling statement, “I have sinned”. He seeks forgiveness from God and man. It is in this scene one witnesses the supreme act of courage. You see, such a man has conquered himself!

B. Consider some instances in the scriptures when men said, “I have sinned”.

I. PHARAOH SAID, “I HAVE SINNED” (Exodus 9:27-35; 10:12-20)

Pharaoh said it, but he was a hard-hearted liar. His confession was merely an expedient end to his own suffering; he returned to his sin each time God relented.

II. ACHAN SAID, “I HAVE SINNED” (Joshua 7:1-26)

Achan's confession came too late. He had opportunity to acknowledge his error, but waited until he was accused. He paid the penalty for his wickedness.

III. SAUL SAID, "I HAVE SINNED" (1st Samuel 15:1-35)

Saul insisted until the very last that his sin was actually an act of obedience. When he finally confessed, he was more concerned with his honor than God's.

IV. DAVID SAID, "I HAVE SINNED" (2nd Samuel 12:1-15)

Even forgiven sin bears consequences.

V. DAVID AGAIN SAID, "I HAVE SINNED" (2nd Samuel 24:1-25)

True repentance comes at a cost.

VI. JUDAS SAID, "I HAVE SINNED" (Matthew 26:14-16, 47-50; 27:3-10)

Judas was so self-absorbed that he took his own life rather than truly repent.

VII. THE PRODIGAL SON SAID, "I HAVE SINNED" (Luke 15:11-32)

This man humbled himself and returned to his father with his confession.

CONCLUSION

A. 1st John 1:8-11

We do ourselves no favors when we refuse to acknowledge our own sins.

B. Psalm 32:1-5

Confession is good for the soul.

C. James 4:7-10

Genuine humility is demanded.

D. 2nd Corinthians 7:9-10

Admitting to our sins must be done in sincerity, accompanied by repentance predicated upon godly sorrow, not worldly sorrow.