

*Humpty Dumpty sat on the wall  
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall  
All the king's horses and all the king's men  
Couldn't put Humpty together again*

This childhood nursery rhyme carries the idea that once you fall and hit rock bottom, then there's nothing that can be done to restore yourself. While that may seem true to some people, it doesn't have to be true. For some when they hit bottom, they become bitter and want to give up on themselves, others and life in general. So they turn to the bottle or some other kinds of drug enhancements.

On the other hand, there are others who fight back and overcome the greatest of obstacles. *For instance there was the 3rd of 14 children born to the Ruettiger family named Rudy. Rudy had a dream of attending N. D. University and to play football for the fighting Irish. Everybody, especially his family continued to tell him that he couldn't do. Yes he didn't have the talent, he was too small, etc. Everybody tried to steal Rudy's dream. He had one setback after another. But Yes he did attend N. D. and with great fortitude, he tried out for the football team. Everybody mocked and ridiculed. Rudy was the brunt of the team as he became the “dummy” they used during blocking and tackle drills. Everybody tried to get him to quit, but his dream was to play in a football game for N.D. He made the team but never played. Finally in the last 27 seconds of the last game, the crowd was chanting “Ru-dy, Ru-dy” and the coach put him in. On that last play Rudy sacked the quarterback and when the game was over, his teammates carried him off the field on their shoulders. He is the one player in N.D. history to be carried off the field in such a manner.*

Because of his “Yes I Can” attitude, there was movie released in 1993 entitled Rudy which is an inspiration story of his life. Today he is one of the most sought after motivational speakers in our country. Rudy Ruettiger is but one of many that has experience setbacks but launched a comeback. Same could be said of Abraham Lincoln, Walt Disney, and Colonel Sanders.

**King David:** He was revered during his lifetime, and still is today by some as the greatest and most beloved king the people of God ever had. The prophet Samuel, who anointed him king, referred to him as “*a man after God’s own heart*” (*1 Sam.13:14*). He was a brilliant military leader who was adored by his people, feared by his enemies, and respected by his equals.

Yet he was an adulterer and a murderer. The story of his sins is recounted in 2 Samuel 11. But the story doesn’t end there. In the very next chapter, David is confronted about his sins by the prophet Nathan. And what was David’s response? *2 Ch. 12:13 I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.*

Did King David sin? Yes he did. Did he suffer consequences as a result of his sins? Yes he did. But did David repent of those sins after Nathan’s rebuke? Yes he did. And did God forgive him of his sins? Yes, he did. David served as the king of Israel for many more years. He led his people faithfully. He fought their battles. He served their interests. He obeyed God. And, in the end, he provided a son—Solomon— through whom the promised Messiah would come.

**King Manasseh:** Manasseh was just twelve years old when he began to serve as the king of Judah. His reign covered more than half a century—55 years to be exact (2 Ch. 33:1). The Bible offers this summary of the reign of Judah’s king. (*2 Chr 33:2 KJV*) *But did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD,...* Some have said that Manasseh was the meanest king that has ever lived.

Manasseh restored the worship to false gods that his father Hezekiah had forbidden. He erected altars to Baal. He commanded the people to worship the stars. He placed idols in the temple of the Lord. He practiced sorcery. He even forced the people to offer their children as burnt sacrifices to the false god Molech. He would sit in the temple and look out across the Valley of Hinnon where children were being offered on the sacrificial altars. He would listen to their screams without any remorse. And

last but not least, *(2 Ki 21:16 KJV) Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; beside his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin, in doing that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.* Manasseh influenced to people of Judah until *(2 Ch. 33:10 KJV) And the LORD spake to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would not hearken.*

Sad to say, but we have that same thing today. There are people who by their lifestyle sin against God and His concepts and who influence others such that they will not hearken to the word of the Lord. Godly principles and precepts are not important to them. So we have many who have no moral fiber about them; they have no scruples of honesty; and the concept of loving your neighbor is unthinkable.

What happened to Manasseh? 2 Ch. 33:11-14 provides the answer: God abandoned him, and the king of Assyria *“bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon. And when Manasseh was in distress, he besought Jehovah his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. And (v13) he prayed unto him. And God was entreated of him, and heard his supplication, and returned him again to Jerusalem unto his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that Jehovah was God.”*

Did King Manasseh sin? Yes he did. Did he suffer consequences as a result of his sins? Yes he did. He lost his kingship and his kingdom, and was carried off in chains to serve his Babylonian enemies as their slave. But did Manasseh repent of his sins? Yes he did, and did God forgive him of those sins? Yes, he did. As a result, Manasseh was restored to his rightful place as the king of Judah, and served in that “lofty” position for many more years. He instituted numerous positive reforms. He fought his people’s battles. He led them faithfully. He served their best interests-and God’s. Ultimately, Manasseh was restored to a position from which he could do much good, and ended his life as a faithful servant of God.

**Moses:** Let’s consider the downfall of Moses. No, I’m not talking at this point about his sin against God by striking the rock instead of speaking to it. I’m talking about his murdering an Egyptian taskmaster. As a result of his act, he had to flee his

home in the palace of the Pharaoh, leaving behind his friends and family as he headed into an unknown wilderness. Can you picture Moses there, all alone, tending his father-in-law’s sheep day by day? No royal palace. No willing servants. No fancy clothes. No daily feasts. No former friends. No loving mother. Just miles and miles of the desolate desert, a tent in which to live, and a lot of smelly sheep— until that fateful day on the side of the mountain when he met God in the burning bush and everything changed.

Even over Moses’ strenuous objection, God plucked him from obscurity and pitted him against the most powerful man on the Earth at that time. A lowly shepherd—a former murderer—was sent by the God of heaven to rescue the people of Israel from more than two centuries of Egyptian bondage. By doing so, he set in motion the series of events that would end on a hill called Calvary outside the city of Jerusalem thousands of years later.

There are examples of a fallen setback and a major recovery. We could continue with examples of Saul (who later became Paul); a man who dragged Christians from their homes and murdered them. Yet he became the apostle to the Gentiles and ended up authoring more than two-thirds of the New Testament?

Then there is the story of Peter, who denied the Lord not just once, but three times; yet who was given by Christ the keys to open the kingdom of heaven on the Day of Pentecost?

Time will not permit us to mention all those in the Old and New Testaments who sinned, repented, and became invaluable servants of God. Each of these people provides us with the perfect example of a fallen setback, but a major comeback.”

Each of these people had sinned horribly; yet each was restored to what we can accurately call “an impressive level of continuing service.” King David led his nation to greatness. Kings Manasseh instituted reforms that revived the spirituality of God’s people. Moses saved the Israelites from slavery, and by so doing, set in motion the fulfillment of the promise of Abraham—a promise to which we today are heirs (Heb.

6:17). Peter preached the very first Gospel sermon, and witnessed the institution of God’s heaven-sent, blood-bought, spirit-filled church. Paul spent the rest of his life populating that church. And heaven will be richer for his efforts.

What is the common theme running through each of these accounts? It’s simply this; people—even good people—sin. But if we are willing to repent, God will forgive us. Jehu said to rebellious Jehoshaphat? **“Nevertheless good things are found in you, because you have prepared your heart to seek God.” (2 Ch. 19:3)** God can use even the worst former sinner to accomplish His ultimate will! We have all sinned and stand in need of redemption, grace, and mercy. *God can forgive you and still use you in His kingdom. (2 Chr 7:14) If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

God asked Abraham in the great long ago: **“Is anything too hard for Jehovah?” (Gen. 18:14)**. If God, in His divine providence, can forgive murders, adulterers, and idolaters—and then use them to accomplish His eternal purpose—He certainly has the power to exalt you and me in any way He sees fit. Wasn’t it Jesus Who said: **“With God, all things are possible” (Matt. 19:26)**. Christianity has been called “the land of beginning again.” God does not want us looking backwards. **“Remember Lot’s wife?” (Luke 17:32)**. Rather, He wants us looking forward—to a home in heaven with Him forever. So when we sin, remember that we can be forgiven.

*The story is told of a king who heard the Humpty Dumpty jingle and was disturbed by it. He disguised himself as a pheasant and went out into the streets, alleys and gutters of his kingdom seeking a Humpty. After several days and nights of searching, he found a fella whom he considered to be Humpty. His world was scattered over a ten-foot circle amidst broken glass and broken beer cans. The king was so excited that he ran up to him and said, “Humpty, it is I your king. I have*

*come to do what horses and men could not do. Come with me and I can put you back together again.*

*Leave me alone,” Humpty replied. I’ve gotten use to this kind of life and kinda like it. I like the trash can over there and the glitter of sun off the broken glass. The king continued to encourage Humpty to come back with him, but the king was saddened as Humpty refused.*

*A week later the king returned but Humpty refused as he told the king that he had adjusted to his environment and was satisfied just the way thing were. “Wouldn’t you rather walk?” the king asked. Humpty told the king that he had no desire to walk. Once I start walking, then I have to keep walking and I’m just not sure I’m ready for that kind of commitment,” Humpty replied.*

*A year later after continued effort, the king was pleasantly surprised and Humpty’s accepting his offer. Piece by piece the king helped to put Humpty’s life together until one day they shared the king’s kingdom together. Someone commented that the two looked like brothers.*

That’s the way it is with our lives and the King of kings. When you find yourself experiencing a setback and are on rock bottom, Jesus the Christ extends his hand of mercy and grace to you. He wants to help put you back together again. But the choice is yours to make.

Invitation. Like the king, Jesus invites you to come and be a part of his spiritual kingdom. Will you come?