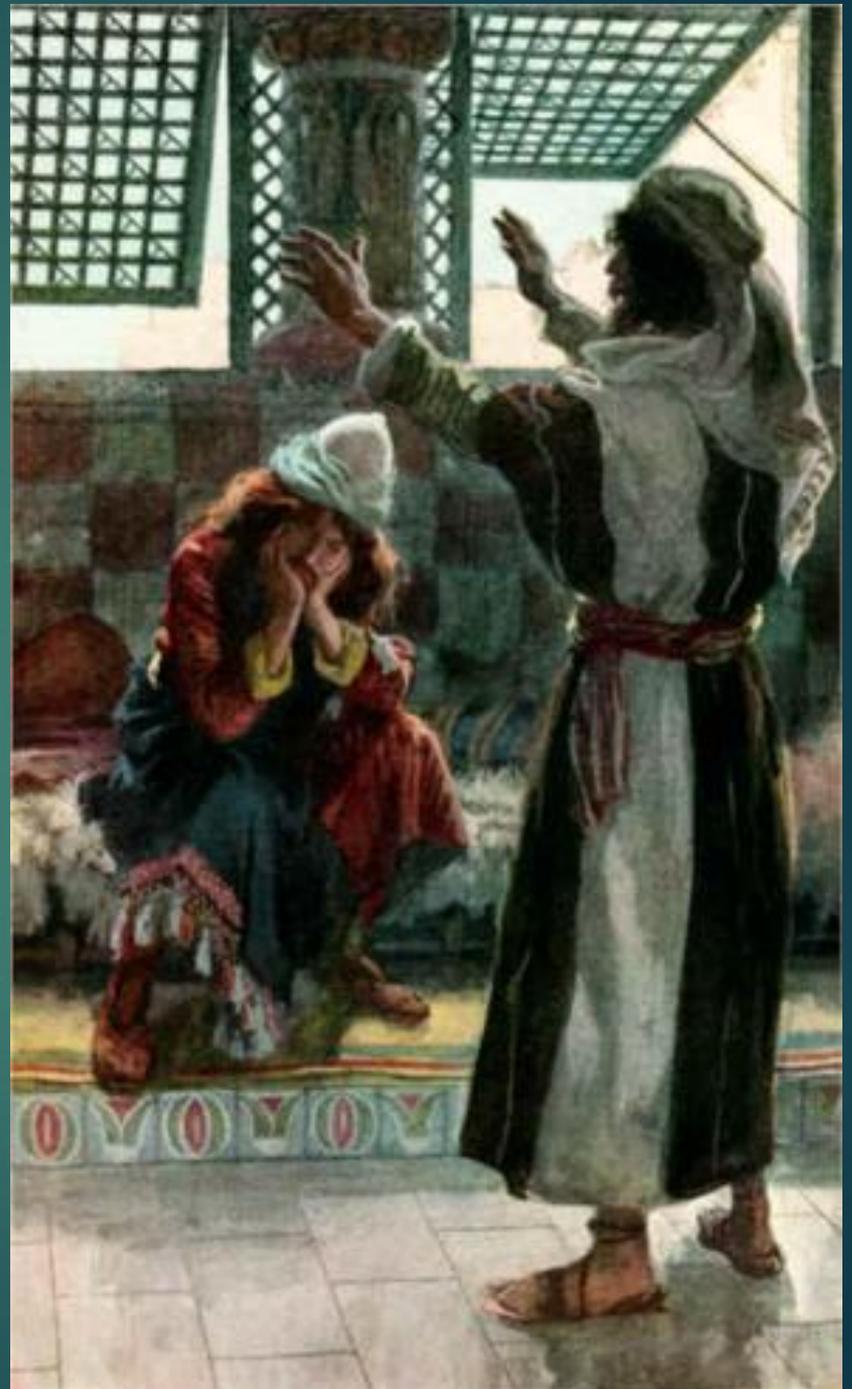


**Confessing
Your Sin
(John 20:19-23
Cont'd)**



John 20:23 - If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.

- ▶ The church has been given authority to be God's voice on earth to tell people that their sins are forgiven based a person's faith and repentance.

1. What is confession?

- ▶ Confession is when you admit to specific sins that you've done and you recognize how bad they are.
- ▶ It's not a real confession if you don't recognize the gravity of your sin.

2. Is confessing your sins biblical?

Proverbs 28:13 - He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Acts 19:18 - Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds.

2. Is confessing your sins biblical?

James 5:16 - Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

2. Is confessing your sins biblical?

1 John 1:8-9 - If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

3. Who should we be confessing our sin to?

3.1. God himself

Psalm 32:3,5- When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long...Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD” - and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

3. Who should we be confessing our sin to?

3.2. Sometimes we need to confess to other people as well.

a) When you have sinned against someone else.

Matthew 5:23-24 - Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

3. Who should we be confessing our sin to?

3.2. Sometimes we need to confess to other people as well.

- a) You have sinned against someone else.
- b) You're struggling with a particular sin.
- c) You don't know for sure if it's sin.
- d) You're struggling with whether or not you're actually forgiven.

4. How should we respond when someone confesses their sin to us?
 - a) Don't be judgmental.
 - b) Show them what real repentance looks like in that situation.
 - c) Point them to the cross.

1 Peter 5:5b-6 - God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.