

“The Come-back Kid”

“David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep. David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him. But David found strength in the Lord his God.”
(1 Samuel 30:1-6, p. 213)

David faced many difficulties throughout his life...rejection by his family, persecution by King Saul, rebellion by his son Absalom. Some of David’s pain was self-inflicted through a combination of immaturity, poor judgment, fear, neglect, anger, lust, and pride – all the usual assortment of failings that assault the race of men...

- v He failed and 85 priests at Nob were assassinated
- v He failed and dishonored God as he sought asylum with the Philistine king while feigning insanity
- v He failed morally and committed adultery with Bathsheba
- v He failed when he had an innocent man murdered to cover up his immorality
- v He failed by mishandling the sacred Ark, and one man died
- v He failed when he did not discipline his son Amnon after he raped Tamar
- v He failed, and paid a terrible price, when he did not restrain his insecure and power-hungry son Absalom from leading a political coup
- v He failed by yielding to satan’s temptation to take a census of the fighting men

...he was however, still a man after God’s own heart, and he learned to grow through his failures.

1. Come-back kids grow through life’s detours

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”
(James 1:2-4, p. 854)

* Remember: “pain” is mandatory, but “misery” is optional!

2. Come-back kids depend on God

“I call on You, O God, for You will answer me; give ear to me and hear my prayer. Show the wonder of Your great love, You who save by Your right hand those who take refuge in You. Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings.”
(Psalm 17:6-8, p. 389)

* Take your choice...

If you want to be distressed, look within—
If you want to be defeated, look back—
If you want to be distracted, look around—
If you want to be dismayed, look ahead—
If you want to be delivered, look to Christ!

“In what strange quarries and stone-yards the stones for the celestial wall are being hewn! Out of the hillsides of humiliated pride, deep in the darkness of crushed despair, in the fretting and dusty atmosphere of little cares, in the hard cruel contacts that man has with man, wherever souls are being tried and ripened, in whatever commonplace and homely ways, there God is hewing out the pillars for His temple” ~ Phillips Brooks