

BAGGAGE

“Guilt”

How do you forgive... when the person who needs forgiveness is YOU?

- Guilt destroys our confidence
- Guilt damages our relationships
- Guilt keeps us stuck in the past

*No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: **Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead...** Philippians 3:13 (NLT)*

*Manasseh was **twelve years old** when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem **fifty-five years.** 2 Kings 21:1a (NIV)*

*He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, following the **detestable practices** of the nations the Lord had driven out before the Israelites. 2 Kings 21:2 (NIV)*

*He rebuilt the high places **his father Hezekiah had destroyed;**... 2 Kings 21:3a (NIV)*

*...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. 2 Kings 21:3b (NIV)*

***He built altars in the temple of the Lord**, of which the Lord had said, “In Jerusalem I will put my Name.” In both courts of the temple of the Lord, he built altars to all the starry hosts. 2 Kings 21:4-5 (NIV)*

***He sacrificed his own son in the fire;**... 2 Kings 21:6a (NIV)*

*...**practiced sorcery** and divination, and consulted mediums and spiritists. 2 Kings 21:6b (NIV)*

*He took the carved **Asherah pole he had made and put it in the temple**, of which the Lord had said to David and to his son Solomon, “In this temple and in Jerusalem, which I have*

chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my Name forever. **2 Kings 21:7 (NIV)**

Manasseh led them astray, so that they **did more evil than the nations the Lord had destroyed** before the Israelites. **2 Kings 21:9b (NIV)**

The Lord said through his servants the prophets: “Manasseh king of Judah has committed these detestable sins. He has done more evil than the Amorites who preceded him and has led Judah into sin with his idols. Therefore this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I am going to bring such disaster on Jerusalem and Judah that the ears of everyone who hears of it will tingle. I will stretch out over Jerusalem the measuring line used against Samaria and the plumb line used against the house of Ahab. **I will wipe out Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.** **2 Kings 21:10-13 (NIV)**

Moreover, Manasseh also **shed so much innocent blood** that he filled Jerusalem from end to end... **2 Kings 21:16a (NIV)**

The Lord spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention. 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 33:10-11 (NIV)**

In his **distress...** **2 Chronicles 33:12a (NIV)**

...he sought the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. 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 33:12b-13 (NIV)**

**WHATEVER YOU'VE DONE OR WILL EVER DO
CAN NEVER SURPASS GOD'S FORGIVENESS FOR YOU**