

Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"—and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Ps. 32 :5 NIV

The colorful newspaper comics reader on radio mayor of New York City in the 1940's Fiorello La Guardia once made the comment; "When I make a mistake it will be a "beaut". Give him credit for his honesty on such matters, because typically we as human beings really don't like to admit mistakes, or really completely tell whole story when we've done something wrong.

One of the funniest stories in the Bible is when Moses comes down from the mountain with the Ten Commandments, only to find the people violating their allegiance to Yahweh, who is not to be represented in an image, makes an image of a golden calf and worships it.

His brother Aaron, who is the high priest, leads in this blatant idolatry. When an incensed Moses confronts what happened, Aaron makes Pinocchio look like a piker:

*²¹ He said to Aaron, "What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?" ²² "Do not be angry, my lord," Aaron answered. "You know how prone these people are to evil. ²³ They said to me, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.' ²⁴ So I told them, 'Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.' **Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!" Exodus 32:21-24***

King David, on the other hand, despite his sins made no excuses as we read in the psalm verse at the top. In fact when the Nathan the prophet confronts him about the terrible ugly incident of adultery with Bathsheba along with the "killing" of her husband, Uriah the Hittite, he again makes no excuses. God did forgive him.

However, more of us are typically like Aaron than David, if we were honest with ourselves. However the Christian faith both deals with honesty of our brokenness, and the forgiveness and healing offered through Jesus on the cross forgiveness sealed by the resurrection.

St. Paul in Romans puts it this way:

²²This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" Romans 3:22-3:23a

So when we do "make a "beaut" of a mistake, let it all out to God, and if we're sincerely sorry, let us take it to the Lord. With God let it "all hang out" and experience the words of the Psalmist

, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"—and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Pr. John