

Cleaning out the Closet

Sermon Series: Fear Factor



II Samuel 11 & 12

SKELETONS IN THE CLOSET?

Not dealing with the past, robs us of our future.

The past can leave us paralyzed with fear or guilt.

CLEANING OUT THE CLOSET

- ▶ You will have to face the truth.

- ▶ You will have to accept the truth.

- ▶ You will have to accept grace, not guilt.

LIVING WITH THE DOOR OPEN

Your skeletons can be Satan's greatest weapon, or God's most powerful tool.

REALife Application

QUICK REVIEW - Looking back over your sermon notes, which particular point or passage of Scripture most challenged, confused or caught your attention?

1. Everyone's story is an opportunity for God to look good. Some testimonies of God's intervention and life change are incredibly exciting while others seem to be more "normal." How can your story, regardless of the "wow" factor, illustrate your need for Jesus and God's incredible grace?

DIGGING DEEPER

2. Facing the truth about ourselves is one of the first steps in dealing with "skeletons" and mistakes from our past. Check out the very first account of a couple facing some hard truth. Read Genesis 3:6-13 and jot down a few observations on how they responded to their mistakes.

Can you think of any other ways that we deal with and respond to our own failures (small or large)?

Have you ever seen Proverbs 28:13-14 accurately describe how life works when dealing with sin?

3. King David is a great example of someone who faced the skeletons in his life. One of these skeletons was an affair he had with a neighbor's wife and a cover-up that included the murder of her husband. What "closet cleaning" steps do you see David taking in Psalm 51:1-17?

When it comes to dealing with your own skeletons, is there any part of David's prayer that would be helpful for you to use?

What challenges or benefits can you see from taking the "closet cleaning" advice given to us in James 5:16?

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