

**T**HE BLESSED DAVID also had a fall like that which has now happened to you; and not this only but another also which followed it. I mean that of murder. What then? did he remain prostrate? Did he not immediately rise up again with energy and place himself in position to fight the enemy? In fact he wrestled with him so bravely, that even after his death he was the protector of his offspring. For when Solomon had perpetrated great iniquity, and had deserved countless deaths, God said that He would leave him the kingdom intact, thus speaking “I will surely rend the kingdom out of thine hand and will give it to thy servant. Nevertheless I will not do this in thy days.” Wherefore? “For David thy father’s sake, I will take it out of the hand of thy son.” And again when Hezekiah was about to run the greatest possible risk, although he was a righteous man, God said that He would succor him for the sake of this Saint. “For I will cast My shield” He saith, “over this city to save it for My own sake, and for my servant David’s sake.” So great is the force of repentance.

Saint John Chrysostom, Letters to the Fallen Theodore,  
Letter I.14, NPNF, Vol. IX, p. 105

**A**BBA SARMATAS said, ‘I prefer a sinful man who knows that he has sinned and repents, to a man who has not sinned and considers himself to be righteous.’

*The Desert Christian*, Benedicta Ward,  
Macmillan Publishing, p. 225

**A**LL VISIBLE THINGS get their light from the sun, and all that is done according to reason gets its force from humility. Where there is no light, everything is dark; where there is no humility, all that we have is rotten.

*The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, St. John Climacus, Step 25:16

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