Mistakes Were Made

"Mistakes were made," said the CEO as he discussed the illegal activity his company had been involved in. He looked regretful, yet he kept blame at arm's length and couldn't admit he had personally done anything wrong.

Some "mistakes" are just mistakes: driving in the wrong direction, forgetting to set a timer and burning dinner, miscalculating your checkbook balance. But then there are the deliberate deeds that go far beyond—God calls those sin. When God questioned Adam and Eve about why they had disobeyed Him, they quickly tried to shift the blame to another (Gen. 3:8–13). Aaron took no personal responsibility when the people built a golden calf to worship in the desert. He explained to Moses, "[The people] gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!" (Ex. 32:24).

Our God offers His children forgiveness and restoration.

He might as well have muttered, "Mistakes were made."

Sometimes it seems easier to blame someone else rather than admitting our own failings. Equally dangerous is to try to minimize our sin by calling it "just a mistake" instead of acknowledging its true nature.

But when we take responsibility—acknowledging our sin and confessing it—the One who "is faithful and just . . . will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Our God offers His children forgiveness and restoration.

The first step to receiving God's forgiveness is to admit that we need it