The Vilest Offender

Manasseh was the son of godly king Hezekiah and the grandfather of godly king Josiah. He reigned longer than any other king of Israel or Judah, and he was the most wicked of all the kings. Nevertheless, he became a trophy of God’s grace and an encouraging example to all those who think they are too evil to be saved.

**1. The *transgressions* of Manasseh’s reign**

2 Kings 21:1-9, 16

**2. The *tragedy* of Manasseh’s reign**

2 Kings 21:10-15; 23:25-27; 24:1-4

**3. The *turning* of Manasseh’s reign**

2 Chronicles 33:10-20

**Application**—Why does God love to save the vilest offenders?

A. God loves to *exercise compassion*.

Isaiah 30:18; Micah 7:18-19; Psalm 103:8

B. Their salvation displays the *glory of His grace*.

Ephesians 1:5-6

C. The worst sinners are apt to *love Him more*.

Luke 7:36-50

D. Their example encourages trembling souls to *come to Christ*.

1 Timothy 1:12-17

**For additional study or family discussion**

1. What did the Lord say to you today through His word? Did you learn some new truth about God or yourself? Did the Lord challenge you, convict you, or encourage you?

2. In Luke 15:11-32, which son enjoyed the greatest expression of his Father’s love? What does this tell us about God’s reception of notorious sinners? Why was the other son so resentful?

3. Those who have experienced the greatest deliverance by Christ often express the greatest devotion to Christ.

From what did Jesus deliver Mary Magdalene (Luke 9:1-3)?

Where was she when Jesus was crucified and His disciples had fled (John 19:25)?

What evidences of her devotion do you see in John 20:1-18?

From what has Jesus delivered you (Colossians 1:13-14)? How might meditation on your former slavery to sin and Satan increase your devotion to Christ?

4. What other kinds of notorious sinners has the Lord saved?

Luke 23:39-43

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

2 Samuel 11 with Psalm 51