

## Repent Well and Restore Fellowship with God

Psalm 51: 1-17 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. <sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. <sup>5</sup> Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. <sup>6</sup> Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. <sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. <sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. <sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. <sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. <sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. <sup>14</sup> Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. <sup>15</sup> O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. <sup>16</sup> For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. <sup>17</sup> The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

### ❖ History behind this Psalm of David

- We all know David was a great and mighty King in his time
  - He loved God greatly...
  - God tells Samuel (searching for a king for Israel) that David was a man after his own heart
- **But, this does not mean that David was perfect...**
  - He was far from it...
- **David's Sin**
  - He was out walking the palace when he was probably supposed to be at war with his soldiers
  - He notices a beautiful woman out bathing in her backyard
  - And He desired her
- **The Problem: He was Married and She was Married**
  - David wanted a woman Bathsheba that was not his wife, but someone else's
- **David took her as his "girlfriend"**
  - And he tried to cover it up...
  - But... she was pregnant with a baby... because that sometimes happens
- **Now, David tried to cover it up by bringing her husband home**
  - So it looked like the baby was Bathsheba's and her husband urriah's
  - But Urriah would not even go be with his wife
- **So, David continued in his sin**
  - He sent urriah back out into the war with a letter to the commander
  - And this letter sealed urriah's fate
  - The army was to advance against the enemy, but fall back leaving urriah to fight alone
- **Urriah was killed...**
  - And then... trying to act like a nice guy...
  - David then marries Bathsheba, the grieving widow... so she wouldn't be alone...
  - God had allowed David to have multiple wives... (do not ask me why)
  - Yet, David was just trying to cover up his sin...
- **David had been very sinful...**
  - So God sends Nathan the prophet to the king with a story
  - About a rich man that had lots of sheep and lambs but took a lamb from his poor neighbor
  - And the lamb he took was the only lamb his neighbor had... and it was like his pet
    - It would eat and drink from the man's hand... it was like a daughter to him
  - Nathan asked David what should happen to the man that took the lamb

- **David Responded in Anger**
  - David says the man should die... that he should repay him four times what he took...
  - Nathan looks right at David and says...
    - **You are the man!**
    - **2 Samuel 12:9** <sup>9</sup> Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.
- **Now David had really messed up didn't he?**
  - And I can tell you that he paid dearly with consequences on this earth
  - **His child died from this...**
    - His other children ended up harming each other...
    - One of his sons killed another
    - His son Absalom took David's kingdom for a little while
      - ◆ The commander of David's Army killed him
  - **He paid dearly with consequences... his sin had repercussions...**
    - And let me tell you... Your sin and my sin has consequences
    - That only the grace of God can overcome... if it is to be overcome
- **David's Response to God after his great sin is written in Psalm 51**
  - After being confronted with his Sin...
  - David became very remorseful... I doubt he was ignorant to what he did
  - But when it was pointed out to him, David realized he had disappointed God...
- **David had despised the word of the Lord...**
  - I want us all in here to think about this every time we are faced with temptation
    - [I just downloaded a new book for free from DesiringGod.org](#)
      - ◆ [And you can too.... It is called KillJoys...](#)
      - ◆ [And it is about the Seven Deadly Sins...](#)
      - ◆ [And how they affect your joy in God and your Treasuring Jesus](#)
      - ◆ [It is written to help you see the lies of these sins and how they affect you](#)
  - **Consider the affect of sins when you are tempted to fall prey to the enemy's lies**
    - Pride, Envy, Anger, Sloth, Greed, Gluttony and Lust
    - Consider 1<sup>st</sup> that you are despising God's Word
    - Consider 2<sup>nd</sup> that your sin will have an impact on you children and others around you
- **But, David Repented... and He Repented Well...**
  - **He handled guilt the right way...**
    - Not by running from the problem
    - Not by hanging himself like Judas did after betraying Jesus
  - **No, He took it head on... He was not lazy with his mistake**
    - He also did not just push it aside as if it were nothing...
  - **David came and laid down before the Lord**
    - And he poured out his heart to the Lord...
    - And as we look at Psalm 51... you will notice he did this Biblically...
  - **David's repentance was Bible based... it was saturated in what he had read in the Word...**
    - He came before God seeking mercy, because He knew God was a God of mercy
    - He came before God knowing he was sinful
    - He knew from God's Word the extent of his problem
- **God's Response:**
  - **13 David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.**
    - God put away his sin... Wow... After all the terrible things he had done...

- It is incredible to think that after taking a man's wife, and having him killed,
- and covering it up... that God would forgive... but He does... praise be to God almighty...
- He forgives because of **Jesus**... not because of David's beautiful psalm...

❖ **Look at this Psalm through the New Covenant of Jesus offering Himself for our Sins**

➤ **David's Pleas came before Jesus came and died**

- But, his pleas were built on faith in a God who would provide forgiveness through Jesus
- David knew what God was like: Because God declared to Moses:
- **Exodus 34:6-7 Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin;**
  - Jesus Death on the Cross was Substitutionary
  - Jesus Bears God's Judgment
  - Jesus Death Makes us Right with God
  - Jesus Takes our Guilt
  - Jesus Cleanses us from our Sins
  - Jesus Restores our Fellowship with God
  - Jesus Sanctifies us unto God...

◆ A relationship with Jesus begins the process of growing to be like Jesus

➤ **Let's look at David's response to God for his own sin...**

- And let us begin to mimic this from the heart
- Let's look at 10 aspects of this Prayer and Song of Repentance

❖ **1) Pray for God's Mercy Because God is a God of Grace**

- **Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**

➤ David's understanding of God's Nature led him to pray this...

➤ David asks for mercy... because He knows God is merciful

➤ **David asks for Mercy... not on David's Merit**

- David does not say, "Have mercy on me because I killed Goliath"
- Because I brought back the ark... Because I danced before you
- Because I wrote hundreds of songs and poems to you
- Because I have trusted in you...

➤ **This is a common problem among men today**

- We very confidently ask for God's mercy or help...
- Because we were faithful to him
- Because we read his word or went to church
- Or gave money or helped others...

➤ **No... David asks for God's mercy according to something else: God's Steadfast Love**

- Steadfast love: Hebrew word is *hesed*
  - Meaning an unending Love...
  - David knew God's love for him would never fail...
  - He knew it was not based on David's goodness...
  - Rather it was based on God's Nature and Character of Grace..

➤ **David again says... "According to your abundant mercy"**

- **Blot out my transgressions**
- David is pleading with God because God is in fact filled with mercy
  - His love is unending and his mercy is abundant...

➤ **Because David Knows these two things about God... David asks humbly**

- Wash me from iniquity... Cleanse me from my sin
- David knew He was dirty... He knew He had messed up...
  - But He appealed to the nature of the One True God
  - And He asked God for mercy...
- ❖ 2) See the Depth of your Sins and Know God is Right to Judge You
  - <sup>3</sup> For I know my **transgressions**, and my **sin** is ever before me. <sup>4</sup> Against **you**, you only, have I sinned and done what is **evil** in your **sight**, so that you may be **justified** in your **words** and **blameless** in your **judgment**. <sup>5</sup> Behold, I was **brought** forth in **iniquity**, and in **sin** did my mother **conceive** me.
  - David Saw His Sins
    - He said... I know my transgressions...
      - They had been pointed out to him hadn't they?
      - Nathan told him that "He was the man"
    - David even says that his sins were **ever before him**
      - David could not get his betrayal of God out of his mind...
      - It was like a movie playing over and over in his mind
  - David's Sin was Against God...
    - Quick Survey: When I told you the story about what David did...
      - Who did you feel the worst for...
      - Bethsheba? The child that Died? David? Uriah?
        - ◆ To me it was Uriah... his King betrayed him
        - ◆ And he was faithful to his king...
      - How many of us felt bad for God?
    - David says... **against you and you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight**
      - David's sin was first and foremost against God
      - Sure bethsheba and uriah were harmed... But God was sinned against...
      - God's Law were broken... God's words to David were despised
      - David ignored God and did his own thing...
  - How often are we like David?
    - Ignoring God and doing our own thing...
    - Maybe we continue to seek comfort when God says "Serve Me"
    - Maybe we continue to seek money and possessions when God says
    - Maybe we continue to choose jobs and family and self over relationship with Jesus
    - Maybe we ignore God's word to think on pure things, and we put our mind on impurity
  - In Verse 5... David gets to the root of the problem...
    - He says I am by nature sinful... I was born this way
    - This is not a cop out by David... it is not an excuse...
    - Rather it is a plea for God's help... It is an admission of weakness...
      - David says... I need help... There is no integrity in me, unless you create it...
      - I can not boast in any of my good... because my good only comes from you
  - David admits that he has **"done evil in the sight of God"**
    - He knows God has the right to judge him
      - so that you may be **justified** in your **words** and **blameless** in your **judgment**.
    - David does not think... **"oh my sin is not that bad" or "it could be worse"**
      - He does not think... I should be forgiven... I deserve God's forgiveness...
      - No! David says God is justified in his words against David
      - David recognizes God has been blameless in his judgment
    - David knew God had the right to judge him...
      - And I believe David would **not** have argued that he did not deserve Hell as punishment

- He saw that God was RIGHT and Blameless in his judgments...
- **There are times when I am brought under the conviction of the Holy Spirit...**
  - And I consider my sin... And I think... God could take everything from me
  - My wife... my children, my home, my job, my friends...
  - And He would be right in doing so...
  - And it is a scary thought to consider... yet it is only by the grace of God
- ❖ **3) Remember God Delights in Honesty Within**
  - **<sup>6</sup> Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**
  - **God had graciously shown David many wonderful things...**
    - David had been taught wisdom by God...
    - Deep within David, He knew wisdom from God...
      - He knew God's Word... he knew righteousness
  - **David knew something about God... You can not be fake with Him**
    - You can fool others, but not God
    - From his previous close fellowship with God... He was able to say that God:
      - Delights in truth in the inward being...
  - **Meaning... God delights in your inward honesty**
    - When you open yourself up to God and are brutally honest with Him...
    - It is a delight to Him...
  - **Seek to be honest with God... do not try to cover up your sin within your own heart**
    - You will only harm yourself
- ❖ **4) Know that God Can Cleanse You**
  - **<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. <sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**
  - **David's pleas for mercy came from a knowledge that God had a way to cleanse him**
    - Purge me with hyssop... priests used a branch to sprinkle blood on a house that was unclean
    - When they took the blood from a sacrifice and sprinkled it in the house...
    - The house would no longer be unclean...
  - **Here in Verse 7, David is pointing toward the sacrifice of blood to cleanse Him...**
    - Now, we know that Old Testament Sacrifices were put in place
      - To represent the death of Jesus... until He came to offer Himself...
  - **David, whether he understands it or not... is seeking cleansing from Jesus...**
    - He says if He is purged with blood, He will be clean
    - If He is washed by God... He will be whiter than snow...
    - **God spoke through Isaiah**
      - **Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.**
  - **David had been in the clutches of guilt for sometime...**
    - Praise be to God that He does not let His children play in their sin...
    - Rather, the Holy Spirit brings conviction...
    - So much so... that David felt as if his bones had been broken...
  - **He asks that He be cleansed so he could be healed...**
    - So he could rejoice again...
    - He missed being in right relationship with God
- ❖ **5) Ask God to Remove You Sin**
  - **<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.**

- David had asked for God to cleanse him...
- **But, He asked for even more... that His sins be removed...**
  - He asked that God would hide His face from David's sins
  - He wanted God to blot all of his iniquities
- **Remember... David has no merit to appeal to...**
  - He had just sinned greatly before God...
  - He is appealing to God's Love and Mercy
- **Isaiah 43:25 "I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.**
  - God makes the point that He removes sins for His Own Sake...
  - God forgives for Himself... Wow... what a promise to claim
- **God has promised us through Jesus to remove our sins and remember them no more...**
  - **Colossians 2:13-14** <sup>13</sup> And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

#### ❖ 6) Ask God to Clean Your Heart and Spirit

- <sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
- **David is not only look for forgiveness, but for purity**
  - David wants a heart that wants to serve God
  - He recognizes that his heart had wandered away from God
  - He saw that his spirit was not right with God
- **David asks that God give him a clean Heart and a right Spirit**
  - He did not want to get back in the same spot...
  - Know this: David's sin with Bethsheba isn't something that just happened in a blink of an eye
    - It started as David had allowed his heart to wonder away from God
  - **John Owen, the great puritan write said " Be killing sin, or it will be killing you"**
    - David had let some sin go uncaptured in his heart... and it just grew
    - Like a small ember that turns into a great forest fire...
- **David wanted to serve God again... and He knew He needed purity to do so**

#### ❖ 7) Ask God to Bring You Back to Him

- <sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.
- **David Continues his desire for fellowship with God**
  - He is not content on just forgiveness... His walk with God is important..
- **David knows there is great joy and pleasure in the presence of God...**
  - He is asking God not to cast him away from his presence
  - **Psalm 16:11 "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**
    - David wants to be in the presence of God... So God is more desirable than sin
    - **For Us: The closer we are to presence of God... the less likely we are to sin**
      - ◆ How do you find yourself in God's presence?
      - ◆ My experience has been that I am never so close to the presence of God
        - Than when I am seeking Him in His Word... which leads me to prayer... which leads me to obey Him...
          - These things help me find the presence of God... Although I often find myself far away from where I should be...
- **David also asks that God not take his Holy Spirit from him...**



- Now... I believe this meant something a little different during David's time...
- Because God has not yet given His Spirit to all believers as He has today
- **But I think the principle remains the same...**
  - Our sin will grieve the Spirit... It will quench the Spirit
  - When we are not walking with God as we ought, we will not be filled with the Spirit...
  - Although He never leaves us...
- **There is a wall that our sin can put up between us and the Spirit...**
  - When this happens, our fellowship with God is broken or harmed greatly...
- **David is longing for a joy in His Salvation...**
  - He knew God had saved him... but he had lost his joy...
  - He is asking that God restore that to him...
  - **For many of us in here... we may be experiencing the same thing...**
    - Our sin has caused a wall to come between us and God...
    - The wall does not come down until you "repent well"
    - **You are not experiencing joy in your walk with God... in your salvation**
      - ◆ Your sin has caused a weakness of faith, anxieties, fears, frustrations...
      - ◆ You have become like the church in Ephesus that left the love they had at first
        - Remember that Jesus rebuked them for this...
        - They were not in love with Him like they needed to be...
- **Ask God to Bring you back to Him**

## ❖ 8) Offer Yourself to God's Service

- **13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.**
- Notice that David was not content to just be right with God
- **David wanted to be used by God...**
  - Any person that experiences the joy of mercy and love from God...
    - Wants others to experience it as well...
- David wanted to share God's mercy with others...
- **Notice:**
  - **David says "THEN" : This is Very Important**
    - David knew that he would be unable to lead others to a closer walk with God
    - If He was not right with God
  - **David needed God's mercy and love**
    - David also needed his fellowship restored...
    - And He needed Joy in his salvation returned...
  - **It would only be then that He could teach transgressors the ways of God...**
    - And only then could He help sinners return to you...
- **There would be a coldness to his ministry when he was far from God...**
  - And as king, He had a responsibility to lead the nation closer to God...
- **David wanted to serve God...**

## ❖ 9) Rejoice When God Delivers You from Guilt

- **14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. 15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.**
- **David's Forgiveness from Guilt would lead to Rejoicing**
  - The proper response of the forgiven soul is rejoicing in God...
- **David recognized God as the God of His salvation...**
  - He says... if you deliver me from my guilt...
  - My tongue will sing "ALLOUD" of your righteousness
  - David is setting his soul toward a proper response to God's mercy

- **Notice this:**
  - David was not just seeking the mercy and love of God
  - He was also responding to it in a proper manner
  - **How often do people claim to experience the mercy of God...**
    - Yet they have never rejoiced in what God has done for them
    - Their lips have never erupted in praise over what God had done for them
    - The mercy and grace and love of God cause emotions to stir within a person
- **David says: Open my lips and my mouth will declare your praise**
  - David is asking God... give me something to sing about...
  - Open my lips... I will declare praise to you...
- **Ask God to restore you and give you a reason to sing...**
  - Ask God to stir your heart and emotions for Him

## ❖ 10) Remember God Desires Broken and Contrite Hearts

- **16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**
- **Finally... you see the attitude of the heart before God...**
  - David is making the point that outward displays of repentance are not enough
  - In those days they offered animal sacrifices... lots of them
    - These days we do extra stuff for others to see it, or to appease our own conscience
- **David says... I would give a sacrifice... but that is not what you delight in...**
  - That is not what you are pleased with...
- **Rather... the sacrifices that are pleasing to you Oh God....**
  - **Are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart... Oh God you will not despise...**
- **David knew that God would not reject one thing... a broken spirit and contrite heart**
  - David could bring a thousand burnt offerings yet they would mean nothing...
- **God knows the depths of the heart**
  - **Hebrews 4:12-13 ... and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.**
- **You can not fake this:**
  - This is so difficult, because you may want it but not have it...
  - This is something you must plead with God for...
  - You must ask Him to bring a repentant heart
  - It is only through the Holy Spirit's help: we have hearts and spirits that are right before God
- **What is He looking for when He says: A broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart**
  - He is looking for a truly repentant person...
  - Who from their inner most being, are truly sorry to God for what they have done
  - Their spirit has been broken... it is no longer strong and proud and considers itself right
  - Rather, the person sees himself as truly unworthy in the eyes of God...
- **Just like the prophet Isaiah who stood in the presence of God...**
  - On earth He was likely seen as a very moral and upstanding guy
  - **Before God he says:**
    - **Isaiah 6:5 And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"**

## ❖ Invitation

