

September 24, 2017

Series: Authentic: Living Life through the Psalms

Title: The Pain and Promise of True Repentance

Text: Psalms 51:1-18

Introduction

- Psalms 51 is one of the most famous Psalms in this book. Probably second or third to perhaps Psalms 23 and maybe Psalms 100.
- It is not only very familiar but has found as much use as any among Christians, believers of all ages. Simply put, we all have needed, need it now or will need this one in our lives. It's one that every true repentant Christian can identify with.
- It is a Prayer for forgiveness of sins. This one was written by King David.
- Why? He did something really bad and he got called out, "**clapped back**" by God for it!

Background/Highlights

2 Sam. 11 – David & Bathsheba

- In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war ... but David remained in Jerusalem. (v. 1)
- David arises from his bed in the evening (apparently, he had been sleeping in), walked on the roof of the palace and sees Bathsheba bathing. David sends for her. She is married to another man by the name Uriah. (v. 2-3)
- David gets her pregnant (v.4-5)
- David sends for her husband, who was a warrior and busy fighting the King's battle, in an effort to deceive him (v.6-13)
- David has him murdered (v.14-16)
- David then marries Bathsheba (v.26-27)

v. 27b – "... *But the thing David had done displeased the Lord.*"

2 Sam. 12 – Nathan Rebukes David

- Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man!" v.7
- Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? V.9
- David said to Nathan, "**I have sinned against the Lord.**" v. 13
- Nathan replied, "**The Lord has taken away your sin.** You are not going to die." But because by doing this you have shown **utter contempt for the Lord**, the son born to you will die." v.13-14

I. RECONCILIATION

This is a prayer by David to be restored and brought back into right relationship with God for his contempt for God's command. Psalms 51 shows us the way to overcome and be restored from our failures and shortcomings and sins with God.

A. Be fully persuaded of God's Love – (v. 1)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

- Any failure or sin will keep us forever approaching God unless we are fully persuaded that he loves us.
- The Psalms does not begin with "my sin" but with "have mercy." Not just have mercy but also "have mercy because of your unfailing love AND because of your great compassion.
- God is equally JUST and MERCIFUL. Even when He judges, he does so with MERCY in his heart!

Heb. 4:14-16 - ¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven,^[a] Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ **Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.**

KEY POINT #1: HOW YOU VIEW GOD WILL DETERMINE AND AFFECT HOW YOU APPROACH HIM!

KEY POINT #2: WE CAN BE CONFIDENT IN HIS RELIABLE AND CONSTANT LOVE FOR US!

B. Confess Your Sin (v. 3-6)

³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

⁵ Surely, I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. ⁶ Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

- David did not explain away his sin/rebellion.
- David acknowledged that His sin was against God, first.
- HE CARED ABOUT WHAT GOD THOUGHT FIRST. THEN CAME INTO AGREEMENT WITH GOD.
- It's not enough to say, "I don't see anything wrong with what I'm doing." DID YOU ASK GOD?
- WHAT WE DO, ALWAYS HAS AN AFFECT ON SOMEONE ELSE BECAUSE WE LIVE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER.

Proverbs 28:13 - Whoever **conceals their sins** does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Conceals – hide, shelter, stores it away, protects

- covers it up
- easily explains it away (stores it away)
- honestly feels like nothing is wrong (ignores)
- lies about it

Read: Psalms 32:1-6 (NIV) – David Confesses and receives Healing

Heb. 12:1 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, **let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.** And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

Weights – unnecessary things that pull us away from our communion with the Lord.

- Too much Internet, Too much TV, Too much Busy-ness, Too many Yes's

Besetting Sins –

- Slothfulness (lazy)
- Talkativeness – speaking negatively about others, idle talk, triflers (trifling – small, petty or trivial).
- Deception and Dishonest ways (even in the small things)
- Envy – someone else's wealth, influence, intellect, position, etc.
- Jealousy – can be often spotted by a hateful attitude towards another person,
- Ambition – overly so
- Intemperance – lacking discipline in how much you consume (food, media, etc.)

Psalms 139:23-24 – 23) Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24) See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

KEY POINT #3: YOU CANNOT CONFESS WHAT YOU DON'T ALLOW THE LORD TO SEARCH!

C. Ask for Forgiveness (v. 7-9)

⁹Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. ¹⁰Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

***1 John 1:9** - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

***James 5:16** - ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

-to each other, not to everyone (the ministry of one another), preferably someone who is not struggling with gossip, but someone who can spend time in prayer with you.

KEY POINT #4: GOD IS MORE READY TO FORGIVE AND RESTORE THAN WE REALIZE!

II. TRANSFORMATION

¹⁶You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. ¹⁷My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

He's not just trying to clean us up, he out to transform us for His Glory to be an expression of His grace and love to the World.

Psalm 51:16-17The Message (MSG)

Going through the motions doesn't please you, a flawless performance is nothing to you. I learned God-worship when my pride was shattered. Heart-shattered lives ready for love don't for a moment escape God's notice.

Stop asking the Lord to change things and people around you and ask the Lord to deal with your own heart issues.

KEY POINT #5: WHEN WE ALLOW THE LORD TO TRANSFORM US, THEN THINGS AROUND US CAN TRANSFORM!