

PSALM 51:1-19 – David’s Prayer of Repentance!

6/6/15 Sat Morn Prayer

Biblical Background:

- The A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, **after he had gone in to Bathsheba.**
- Psalm 51 deals with **true confession as seen in the life of David.** Having committed adultery with Bathsheba and ordering the execution of her husband, David apparently refused to deal with his sin for nine months. When Nathan, the prophet, told him a very pointed parable about a man who had stolen a lamb, David said, “That man shall surely die.” Then Nathan looked at him and said, “Thou art the man,” referring to his stealing Bathsheba from Uriah (2 Samuel 12:7). This, at last, caused David to admit his sin.
- **Psalm 51 is the confession David made.** As seen in this psalm, **true confession deals with three basic areas:**
- **A right view of sin**, as seen in verses 1 through 5; **a right view of God**, as seen in verses 6 through 12; and, finally, **a right view of self**, as seen in verses 13 through 19.

Psa 51:1. Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions.

- A right view of sin carries with it **the understanding that sin deserves judgment.** That is **why David pleads for mercy rather than justice.** He realizes that **God hates sin.** Why does God hate sin? **Because of what it does to us.** Uriah was dead. Bathsheba was polluted. David was crippled. His family was tainted.
- **Sin left nothing but problems, sorrow, and heartache in its wake.** That’s why God hates sin.
- **“The sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me ... taken the wife (2 Sam. 12:10)**

Psa 51:2. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity (a sum total of the evil in my life), And cleanse me from my sin (missing the mark).

- **Not only does sin deserve judgment, but it demands cleansing.** Before revival can come, **there first must be removal.** In Nehemiah’s day, for example, **before Israel experienced revival there was repentance (Neh. 9).**
- Many times, we seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit when, **what we need, is to be emptied of our sin.**

Psa 51:3. For I acknowledge my transgressions (deliberate, willful disobedient act), And my sin is always before me. Psa 51:4. Against You, You only, have I sinned. And done this evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.

Psa 51:5. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

- Thirdly, **sin declares guilt.** When Adam sinned, he didn’t initially declare his guilt. “The woman You gave me caused me to sin,” he said, as he not only blamed Eve but God as well (*see Genesis 3:12*).
- In Jeremiah’s and Ezekiel’s day, one of the proverbs was: **“Our fathers ate sour grapes so our teeth are set on edge.”** God forbade its use because it kept people from taking responsibility for their own sin (*Ez. 18:2, 3*).
- David took responsibility for his sin. **“Against Thee, Thee only have I sinned,” he said.**
- **“What about Uriah and Bathsheba?”** you ask. “Didn’t David sin against them?” They were innocent victims perhaps but sinners nonetheless.
- We rush to place blame, thinking there must be someone wrong and someone innocent. But that’s not scriptural, **for we’re all guilty (Romans 3:23). We’re all in need of salvation.**

Psa 51:6. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

- After seeing a right view of sin, **we come to a right view of God.**
- First, we see His holiness. **God desires inward holiness rather than an outward show of piety.** Why? Because God loves Jesus so much that He wants heaven filled with people just like Him.

Psa 51:7. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

- **After seeing God’s holiness, we see His power.**
- Hyssop was a small plant that grew in the rocks of Israel.
- It was **used to apply blood on the doorpost** when the children of Israel left Egypt on the night of the Passover (*Ex. 12*). It was also **used to apply blood in the ceremony of cleansing a leper (Lev. 14).** The hyssop was also **used to apply ashes of the red heifer and holy water in the cleansing of the priests (Num. 19:6).**
- In other words, **hyssop was the agent of cleansing—and David wanted it applied to his own heart.**

Psa 51:8. Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice.

- David understood that **God’s dealings with him were not punitive but corrective.**

- This verse is a reference to what a shepherd does when a sheep strays. The shepherd breaks its legs and carries the lamb on his shoulders. As the weeks go by, the lamb develops such a close bond with the shepherd that, when its legs are healed, it never strays from the shepherd again.
- It's as if David says, "I needed to be dealt with in that way, but I've learned my lesson, Lord."

Psa 51:9 Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities.

Psa 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Psa 51:11 Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Psa 51:12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

- David's **salvation wasn't lost, but his joy was.**
- **When the joy of your salvation departs, turn to Psalm 51 and do business with God.**
- If the joy is gone, chances are very great that there is some unconfessed sin in your life.
- The fruit of the Spirit is joy. So if the Spirit is flowing the fruit will be present.
- **Seek the Lord and ask the Father to search your heart and restore to you the joy of your salvation.**

Psa 51:13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.

- After being given a right view of sin and a right view of God, **here we see a right view of self.**
- When will sinners be converted? **When I have repented of my sin, when there's joy in my life once again.** You need not feel that the time you failed or the mistakes you made disqualify you for ministry. In fact, just the opposite is true.
- **If you repent before the Lord, just as He promised to restore the years the locusts had eaten, He'll open up entirely new aspects of ministry to you, for you will be able to speak with authority and conviction about the inexhaustible goodness and grace of God (Joel 2).-"Repent-Return to the Lord; Gather the people; Rejoice in the Lord!"**

Psa 51:14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.

Psa 51:15 O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

Psa 51:16 For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering.

Psa 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.

- I must not only be holy for the sinners' sake, **but for God's sake.** The sacrifice God desires is a humble sacrifice—not mixed with pride of my spirituality or satisfaction with my own righteousness, but with an acute awareness of my own need for mercy.

Psa 51:18 Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem.

Psa 51:19 Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, With burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

- Finally, **I must be holy for the saints' sake.**
- Here, **David is praying for Zion, praying for Jerusalem, praying for his nation.** After he has repented and received restoration himself, he is now able to pray for others effectively and confidently.
- I must be holy so that I can remain in fellowship with God.
- I must be holy so that my prayers for His people and the amazing work He desires to do in and through them will be heard.

Nothing But the Blood of Jesus! - (Robert Lowery)

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus;

What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow That makes me white as snow;

No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace—Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

This is all my righteousness—Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

Oh! precious is the flow That makes me white as snow;

No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.