

PSALM 51 – A Prayer of Repentance

7/2/22 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com www.ptwente.com

THY LOVING KINDNESS – Mitchell Hugh, Maranatha Singers (2:41)

Thy lovingkindness is better than life Thy lovingkindness is better than life
My lips shall praise thee, thus still I bless thee I will lift up my hands unto thy name

I lift my hands up unto thy name I lift my hands up unto thy name
My lips shall praise thee, thus still I bless thee I will lift up my hands unto thy name

Thy lovingkindness (thy lovingkindness) Is better than life (is better than life)
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PSALM 51: It speaks of David’s brokenness!

Psalm fifty-one is to the chief musician. It is entitled a Psalm of David when Nathan the prophet came to him after he had gone into Bathsheba. We know the story. How that David, in his older years, was in battle and he had a fainting spell, and it was quite obvious that he did not have the same punch that he once had. The men said, “You are not going to go into battle anymore. You are getting old man. You just do not have the same strength”. It was determined that David should not go into battle anymore.

So, his armies would go out and David would remain in Jerusalem. While the armies were out, it was the Amorites that they were fighting, that David was one evening on his housetop. You have to understand or see Jerusalem to get the picture. The city of Ophel is right on the side of the mountain. The houses are just built on the hillside. They did not have yards, but the roofs of the houses served as their yard, their patios.

David was there on the patio of the palace looking the city Ophel. Other people would be out on their rooftops. There was a most attractive lady nearby who was bathing. David saw her and lusted after her. He sent his servants over to invite her to the palace. There David entered into an adulterous relationship with Bathsheba. He tried to cover the guilt by ordering her husband home hoping that husband would spend the night with his wife and think that he was the cause of her pregnancy. The husband did cooperate. David conspired to put him to death. The husband was killed in battle as a result of David’s orders to Joab his general.

David then took Bathsheba as his wife and thought that his tracks were covered, nobody new. The prophet Nathan came to David one day and said,

“David, there was a very wealthy man in your kingdom. He had an abundance of flocks, all that he could desire. He had everything. Next to him there was a poor man who had only one ewe lamb. It was like a child. It would eat at his table and sleep in the house. It was all that he had. The rich man had ordered his servants to, by force, go next door and take that one little lamb to his neighbor and kill it to feed his guests. David became angry and said, That man shall surely be put to death. He pronounced his judgement. Nathan pointed the finger and said, David you are the man! God gave you the kingdom. He gave you the riches and the glory of the kingdom. He gave you many wives and you went and took the wife of your neighbor.”

This is the psalm that follows that rebuke of Nathan.

A Prayer of Repentance - Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David When Nathan the Prophet Went to Him, After He Had Gone in to Bathsheba.

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.

- David’s prayer is a cry for mercy. He had been found out. God has put the finger on him through the prophet, so to speak. David is now calling out for God’s mercy. There were other psalms where David said, “Lord reward me according to my goodness and uprightness,” but not now he is not asking for justice but mercy O, God.
- Notice transgressions, blot out my transgressions. A transgression is a deliberate, willful act of disobedience. David’s act was a willful act of disobedience. He knew better. He knew the law of God. He knew he was doing wrong when he engaged in that adulterous affair with Bathsheba. It was a transgression. “Blot out” he said, “my transgressions”.

Psa 51:2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.

- “Wash me from my iniquity.” Iniquity is a sum total of the evil in my life. “Cleanse me from my sin.” Sin has as its root meaning, the missing of the mark. It may not always be deliberate. Many times, it is just the weakness of my flesh. Sin is still missing the mark, but it is not a deliberate willful thing like a transgression. I would like to hit the mark. I would like to be all that God would have me to be. I come short, I miss the mark.
- *Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.* So often David ties the three together the transgression, the sin and the iniquity.

Psa 51:3 For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me.

- It was troubling his conscience. He could not get it off of his mind. It was one of those things that just plagues you. You are drawn, your flesh is drawing you and yet the spirit is saying no, no, no. Thus, this conflict, this inner warfare, as the flesh is lusting against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh and the two of them are contrary. You find yourself torn, ripped apart inside, the feeling and consciousness is ever before me, it’ there.

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.

- Interesting to me because as I would look at the story I would say that he really sinned against Bathsheba. He invited her to his palace and using his influence to seduce her, after all he is the king. I would say that he sinned surely against her husband who he sent to his death in battle. In reality, all sin is against God. When I sin, I sin against God. It may have its affects among other people and often does, but the sin is against God. He is the one who has set the righteous standard and any sin is against God.
- David acknowledged it is against You! When you sin, you are going against God, and you need to realize that. I may think, “Hey man you deserve to be cut down. You cut down enough other people” and I may sort of gloat at the ability of being able to cut you short, to take advantage of you because I know what a scoundrel you are. I am really sinning against God. It is God’s law that is being violated.
- ***Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight.*** You do not hide it from God. He thought he had hidden it, he thought that nobody knew. But God you knew, I have done it in your sight. You were watching me. We need to have that consciousness of the presence of God with us at all times. I think it would alter our behavior if we only realized that the Lord was right there with us. We forget that and we sort of shove it out of our minds.
- I have had people embarrassed because they were using filthy language and they turned around and saw me standing there. They would blush and feel embarrassed. It is strange to me that they would blush when to discover I was standing there and yet they do not realize that the Lord is there. I did this Lord in Your sight. You were watching me.
- ***That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.*** It is interesting to me how that man so often seeks to challenge the justice of God. So many questions relate to “Is God really fair?” That is something that Satan has done from the beginning, challenges the justice and the fairness of God. “Is God fair to you Eve in forbidding you to eat that luscious looking fruit? He really is not fair Eve because he knows that when you eat it you are going to be just as wise as He is, and He is trying to keep that from happening. He is holding back from you something that would put you on the par with Him. He is just trying to protect His own territory Eve. That really is not fair”. The idea was God is not fair, withholding something from you that is so beautiful and desirable.
- Satan continues to challenge the justice of God. When God does judge, He will be justified in doing whatever He does!

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

- That is, I was born with a sinful nature. Paul tells that in Ephesians chapter two, “We were by nature the children of wrath even as others”. I was born with a sinful nature. There are those that seek to deny that. They say that you are born neutral and that you are a sinner because you sinned.
- I am a sinner. I am a sinner by nature, not because I sinned. My sinning what I was and what I am. By nature, I am a sinner, that is why I sinned. Sinning does not make me a sinner. It only proves that I am a sinner. The Bible declares, “born in sin, brought forth in iniquity”.

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

- David had been deceitful. He had tried to cover his sins. God wants truth. God wants confession. If we get into that rut of trying to cover our sins, we only compound them. We only go deeper and deeper and deeper. Look how deep David got, he did not intend that to happen. When he had this little affair with Bathsheba he thought that was the end of it, but no it was not. Sometimes we think we can just play with sin, we could just dabble here in there with a little bit of indulgence, and we could step out of it. So he committed adultery with her. That does not seem like that big of thing but then she became pregnant as the result of that relationship. Well, we will cover that one. We will just get her husband home and he will go to bed with her, and he will think that he did it and no one will ever know. We will just cover that. He got deeper and deeper.
- The deception begins to grow and grow. “O what a web we weave when we first start out to deceive”. It is like a web; you get caught in the thing. It gets a hold of you. The Lord wants us to be open and to confess our sins. David was seeking to cover it. You desire truth in my inward part; you want me to be open and truthful.

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

- ***Purge me, cleanse me, with hyssop, and I shall be clean.*** The hyssop is a little shrub that grows out of the walls, out of the rocks. It was the bush that they used when they sprinkled the blood of sacrifice. They would dip the little hyssop bush in the basin of blood and then sprinkle it with the hyssop. It is reference to that, wash me with hyssop. It was used for cleansing in the scriptures. ***Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*** I love the scripture that says, “The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses a man from all sin” purge me, wash me.

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

- David, in speaking of the same incident in psalm thirty-two, declares “When I kept silent” that is when I have not confessed, when I was trying to disguise, cover and hide my sin. (*Psa 32:3*) *When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all day long.* It was really heavy upon him. The guilt was pressing him down.

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

- Again, sins and iniquities.

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

- ***Create in me a clean heart.*** It is really beautiful, David’s prayer here. Purge me with hyssop, wash me that I might be whiter than snow, blot out my iniquities and create in me a clean heart O God. The Bible says, “the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked.” Out of the heart are the issues of light, “Keep your heart with all diligence” the Lord said, “for out of it are the issues of life.” Lord create in me a clean heart.
- ***And renew a right spirit within me.*** I once was innocent. I once had the right attitude towards sin. I once hated that, God renewed the right spirit within me. David had done these horrible things. It was something he could not get out of his mind. It was something that plagued him, so he is saying, “God renew the right spirit within me.” I had the wrong spirit. Doing those things. I was wrong!

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

- We are told not to quench the Holy Spirit and we are told not to grieve the Holy Spirit of God. The name is Holy Spirit; the holy is the declaration of the character of the spirit, the holy and pure spirit. I wonder how many times that my actions grieve the Holy Spirit of God David is praying 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.

- That is the thing that David had lost! That joy of the consciousness of God’s presence and God’s spirit working in his life. That is what sin does, it destroys the joy of your salvation. You get caught up in that misery of a divided heart. The desire of the flesh towards the thing and the prompting of the spirit await and you are torn by it. Misery.

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

- If you do this for me Lord, I will become a witness for You. I will get out and start really teaching the transgressors Your ways. I will show them how that to depart from the Lord is death.

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.

- *Deliver me from the blood guiltiness.* From the murder of this man. I am guilty of his blood, deliver me Lord from that.
- *God, the God of my salvation; and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.* So, Lord, I will go out and I will tell others. I will be a witness for You, and I will sing 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.

- That is not what you are really looking for at this point. In the last psalm it said that the Lord is not going to reprove them for their lack of sacrifices. You do not want my sacrifice. At this point sacrifices really will not do it. God, You want the change of heart! You do not want the sacrifice or else I would give it.

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

- David, as guilty as he was of such heinous sins. Yet, God did not despise his broken spirit, his contrite heart, and God forgave him. That is the wonderful thing!

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.

- Get things right Lord, and then we could restore the full relationship. Let us start at the heart because that is where the problem comes. When you are straying from God it starts from the heart. Get that right and the rest will follow into order. As long as the heart is wrong you cannot put the rest in order, it is just not going to be there.

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART OH GOD – Maranatha – (2:54)

Create in me a clean heart, oh God And renew a right spirit within me
Create in me a clean heart, oh God And renew a right spirit within me

Cast me not away From thy presence oh Lord And take not thine holy Spirit from me
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation And renew a right spirit within me

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FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD LEADERS: -

Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation, including: Xi Jinping – China; Narendra Modi- India; Joe Biden – USA; Joko Widodo - Indonesia; Jair Bolsonaro - Brazil; Arif Alvi - Pakistan; Muhammadu Buhari - Nigeria; Hasina Wazed - Bangladesh; Vladimir Putin- Russia; Lopez Obrador – Mexico; Naftali Bennett – Israel; Olaf Scholtz – Germany; Boris Johnson – U.K.; Kim Jong-un – North Korea; Yoon Suk Yeol– South Korea.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY; ISRAEL: