

A Repentant Heart (part 1)

Psalm 51:10 "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."

Last week, we learned that we are all sinners from our birth. There are none of us that are righteous within our self; therefore we are in need of God's righteousness.

We also learned that sin turns God ear away from the sinner and God cannot have anything to do with sin. Henceforth, we are going to explore in this lesson how to get God to hear us and prepare us for His visitation.

The Sin of David

I want to use for this particular lesson the example of David taken from scripture. A little background into the sin of David is needful for us to grasp the seriousness of the situation.

- I. David was a king who was needed in the battle.
 - i. When nations went to war, the king was to go as well.
 - ii. His presence on the battlefield encouraged the soldiers to fight hard and win.
 - iii. When hard decisions had to be made, the king was there to make them.
- II. David stayed home from this particular battle.
 - i. We have no idea why David stayed home, but he did.
 - ii. When he should have been active in his kingly role, he decided to relax.
 - iii. This was a big mistake.
- III. David saw Bathsheba.
 - i. In his relaxation, he was out walking on his roof and saw Bathsheba bathing in her own private home.
 - ii. Instead of turning around and forgetting he saw her, he inquired about who she was.
 - iii. He did not flee temptation. He pursued it.
- IV. David used his position as king.
 - i. Since he was the king, he could get whatever and whoever he wanted.
 - ii. So he used his position to have Bathsheba brought to him and he committed adultery with her.
- V. The cover up attempt.
 - i. David suddenly realized the problem and decided to have her husband brought home for a leave to lie with her.
 - ii. When her husband got home, he felt bad about being home while all the other men were are war and did not go into his wife.
 - iii. At this time, Bathsheba was with child and David needed her husband to be with her; but he did not.
- VI. The murder.
 - i. So David, in a further attempt to coverup the adultery, had her husband put in to the heat of the battle so he could be killed.

- ii. Her husband was killed and David had her brought into his home and he made her his wife.

The arrival of Nathan.

Now David thinks that all is okay in his life, until Nathan the prophet shows up. The Lord has sent Nathan to reveal the true nature of this sin to David.

2 Samuel 12: 1-7

- 12:1 And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.
- The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds:
- But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.
- And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.
- And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die:
- And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.
- And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man.

Now David knows what kind of a sinner he is. He has a choice, as of us do.

- He could say, "I am the king and I have a right to do whatever I want."
- Or he could say, O Lord God, here I am, a sinner; forgive me."

David chose the repentant way.

The Sinner's Prayer

Let us take a look at Psalm 51 from the beginning. We will read the entire chapter for reference.

There are some things in this prayer we need to look closer at. How to get God to hear us as a sinner is important.

I. Falling upon the mercy of God.

Mercy is described as compassion. It is pardoning someone instead of casting judgment. The mercy of God is great and plenteous.

- 1 Chronicles 21:13, "And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let me fall now into the hand of the LORD; for very great are his mercies: but let me not fall into the hand of man."

- Nehemiah 9:19, "Yet thou in thy manifold mercies forsookest them not in the wilderness: the pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day, to lead them in the way; neither the pillar of fire by night, to show them light, and the way wherein they should go."
- Lamentations 3:22-23, "It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."
- Psalm 103:17, "But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;"
- For every 2 times the word "mercy" is used in scripture, David used it once. He was a man who realized what the mercy of God was.

Pleading for mercy causes us to realize we are unable to change the circum-stances we are in. If we could change them, mercy would not be needed.

Falling upon the mercies of God means that we cannot change our sin situation, and we need Him to turn His ear toward us.

II. Acknowledging of sin.

David then acknowledged that he was a sinner. This was what we learned last week; how to realize we are a sinner.

Once he realized there was sin in his life, he admitted it to God through his words. He spoke his transgression. We must be willing to admit our sin before God so He can see our sincerity.

- Psalm 51:3, "For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me."
- Psalm 32:5, "I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah."
- Mark 1:5, "And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins."
- 1 John 1:9-10, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

Confession is not an easy thing, but it is needful for us to pour our heart to God. I am not necessarily an advocate of a person going into all their descriptions of sin; but if it needful, then you must do it.

Most people can acknowledge their sin through a simple prayer of forgive-ness. Repentance begins in our hearts through a desire to change.

III. Recognizing God as your only hope.

It is time to begin transforming your focus away from your sin and more toward God. Your sin holds you down; God will pick you up.

- Psalm 51:4-6, "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightiest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. Behold, I

was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom."

- Acts 26:18, "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."
- Psalm 62:7-8, "In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us..."

We have to trust God to bring us out of our sinful situation. If we do not trust Him to do this, we will have a hard time repenting and confessing our sins to Him.

IV. Prayer for cleansing.

Once we have begun to turn our focus more toward God, then we can start the cleansing process of our sinful situation. Let's look closer at the cleansing prayer of David.

- Psalm 51:7-9, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities."
 - Purge means "to expiate (or to atone for or do away with)."
 - Wash means "to trample out; to cleanse"
- David wanted God to do away with his sins.
- David wanted God to open his heart to something besides pain and anguish and sin.
- David wanted God to turn away from his sins and forget all about that he had ever committed sin.

Is it possible for God to forget that we have ever sinned?

- Jeremiah 31:34, "And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."
- Hebrews 8:12, "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."
- Hebrews 10:16-17, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more."