

Psalm 51: The Heart of a Leader

a glance at the life at David

Overview: 2 Samuel 11 & 12

We see David on a rooftop. He sees a woman bathing on another rooftop. He asks someone who she is and finds out her name is Bathsheba and she is married. He has her come over, sleeps with her and gets her pregnant. She tells him and David goes to great lengths to have this pregnancy hidden and even has her husband killed. After a brief time of mourning the loss of her husband, David takes Bathsheba to be his wife. Later, a prophet named Nathan calls David out on his sin. David finally sees the error of his ways and sees his sin.

He writes Psalm 51 in response to realizing the gravity of his sin.

Section 1: Confession and Repentance

Verses 1-6

¹Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!
³For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
⁴Against 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.
⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
⁶Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

What we see in this section:

- 1) We need to confess and repent
- 2) We need forgiveness
- 3) When we sin – it is against God
- 4) God is the one we need forgiveness from and the one we need to confess to

1 John 1:9 – If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Section 2: Restoration

Verses 7-12

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have
broken rejoice.
⁹Hide your face from my sins; and blot out all my iniquities.
¹⁰Create in me a clean heart. O God, and renew a right
spirit within me.
¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your
Holy Spirit from me.
¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me
with a willing spirit.

What we see in this section:

We need restoration in:

- 1) *Our cleanliness/righteousness*
v. 7 shows us God is the one that makes us clean.
- 2) *Our fellowship with God*
When a believer sins, the fellowship with God is destroyed because sin separates them. But the relationship is still intact. His standing is still good.
- 3) *Having joy in our salvation again*
If we set our eyes on worthless idols, we lose joy in our salvation

Section 3: Teach Others God's ways

Verse 13

¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

What we see in this section:

After we confess...

after we ask for restoration...

we should teach other's God's ways.

- Continuing the discipleship chain
- As you share your testimony, life, struggles and triumphs to obey and trust God

As a result, *sinners will return to Jesus.*

Section 4: Praise Him

Verses 14-15

¹⁴Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
O God of my salvation, and my tongue will
sing aloud of your righteousness.

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

What we see in this section:

After we confess...

after we ask for restoration...

after we teaching others God's ways...

we should praise Him.

We should praise Him directly and to others

Section 5: Don't Give Him Burnt Offerings

Verse 16

¹⁶For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I
would give it; you will not be pleased
with a burnt offering.

What we see in this section:

God doesn't want you to sacrifice your time to become a small group leader, a full-time missionary, or pastor. He doesn't want you to give up your sexual addiction, eating disorder or addiction, gaming or Internet addiction. He doesn't want any of your "burnt offerings."

What, then will He be pleased with?

Section 6: Give Him the Right Sacrifice

Verse 17

¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit,
a broken and contrite heart, O God,
you will not despise.

What we see in this section:

Contrite means to feel regret and sorrow for one's sins or offenses.

God wants a broken and contrite heart as his sacrifice.

What he wants is YOUR HEART. He wants your heart, not your offerings.

1 Samuel 15:25-26 – Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice...

Section 7: Only Then He will Delight In Your Offerings

Verses 18-19

¹⁸Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;

¹⁹then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings.

What we see in this section:

After you have given Him your whole heart, only then He will accept your offerings.

Questions for Reflection:

- 1) Am I confessing and repenting of sin? To God?
- 2) Do I recognize that my sin grieves God?
- 3) Do I believe that God is capable of forgiving and cleansing me from all unrighteousness?
- 4) Do I see my need for restored righteousness, fellowship with God and joy in my salvation? Do I have those things? Am I letting sin stand between God and me?
- 5) Am I teaching others God's ways? Am I continuing the discipleship chain?
- 6) Are sinners returning to Jesus as a result?
- 7) Am I praising God? In one-on-one time with Him? To others?
- 8) Am I trying to earn God's favor through burnt offerings?
- 9) Have I given Him my broken and contrite heart?
- 10) What would it take to give Him my heart?