

# A Repentant Heart

Psalm 51

## 1. Intro

1. Last week we discussed brokenness.
  1. Brokenness is an attitude of the heart that is completely submitted before Jesus.
2. Brokenness and repentance go together.
3. Today we look at a repentant heart.
  1. This Psalm comes out of II Samuel 11. (review)

## 2. David's View

1. David's prayer ask for God's favour, mercy, forgiveness and cleansing.
  1. Acknowledges his guilt.
    1. Not one word of excuse for his sins, did not tone down the gravity of his offenses or blame others.
    2. He is comparing forgiveness to erasing or blotting out names from a register (Ex 32:32-33). (1)
    3. David correctly viewed his sin as making the worship and service of a holy God impossible. (2)
      1. In the Jewish society of that day, to wash and change clothes marked a new beginning in life (Ex. 19:10), and David made such a new start (II Sam. 12:20).
  2. Confesses and accepts responsibility (3-6)
    1. Possibly one year since his deception.
      1. Harden heart and excused the sin. Rationalized?(3)
    2. His sin was against God.(4)
    3. He viewed sinful acts as the fruit of a sinful nature, not as the product of his environment or situation.(5)
    4. He also realized that God wanted him to be completely honest. He needed to get his heart right with God. (6)
  3. Asks to have his guilt removed and to be restored inwardly (7-12)
    1. Cleansing is twofold: of a sinner from the guilt of sin—the blood; and of a saint from the defilement of sin—the water (wash).(7)
    2. David has finally submitted to the will of God.(8)
    3. The expressions in this verse pictures God as a judge removing David's sins.(9)
    4. David sensed the need for a clean heart.(10)
    5. Casting away from God's presence implies a rejection as God's servant.(11)
    6. He had not lost his salvation as a result of his sin, but he had lost the joy of it.(12)
  4. Recommits himself to a lifestyle of wisdom and joy in service to God and others (13-17)
    1. If forgiven, David would show others how God deals with penitent sinners. He would do this as an example as well as verbally.(13-15)
    2. He would offer sacrifices of worship, but he acknowledged that what God really wanted, and what he would also offer, was a different attitude. (16-17)

## 3. Repentant

1. In light of this do we have a better understanding of repentance?
  1. It is a turning away from the way we are going. 180 degrees,
  2. Adopting a different attitude toward the Lord results in changed conduct.
2. But before we can repent we need to know what we are repenting from.

1. Have I stolen, lusted, coveted, lied,
  1. But, you may say “I only do that occasionally”.
    1. Even once and you end up condemned.
  2. We will rationalize our sin. Make excuses.
3. So we need to repent from these things; but for what purpose if I stand condemned?
  1. Jesus is the one who has paid your penalty and as such we should give ourselves totally to Him.

#### 4. Forgiven

1. We can count on His gracious and abundant forgiveness because He has promised to forgive those who confess their sins.
2. Forgiveness should result in a renewed commitment to worship and serve the Lord.
3. There are two types of forgiveness.
  1. There is judicial forgiveness
    1. Every person experiences this when they trusts in Christ as Savior (Rom. 5:1).
    2. God will never condemn us to eternal damnation for our sins if we trust in His Son (Rom. 8:1).
  2. There is also relational forgiveness.
    1. This is the forgiveness believers need because we offend God (1 John 1:9).
    2. It restores relationships.
4. In one sense, therefore, God has forgiven all our sins, but in another sense we need to confess our sins to receive forgiveness.
5. Judicial forgiveness makes us acceptable to God, but relational forgiveness makes us intimate with God.
6. Judicial forgiveness removes the guilt of sin, and relational forgiveness restores the broken fellowship caused by sin.

#### 5. Conclusion

1. In Acts 13:22 Paul states that “God sought a man after His own heart” and he was referring to David.
2. I believe the key to this was that David was truly repentant.
  1. David became broken and repentant before God.
3. Can we become men and women after God's own heart?
4. The key is a broken and repentant heart.