

SOUNDTRACK:

Encountering Jesus in the Songs of Scripture

Week 8: Psalm 51

Introduction: Many live in depression, discouragement, and defeat because of unconfessed sin. The consequences of wrong choices reverberate in their lives and burden them like an unrelenting taskmaster. Even if they know God's willingness to forgive, many people reason that He could never use them in service. However, biblical characters emerge from the pages of Scripture not only with their successes but also with their failures. We are surprised to see that God uses such imperfect people. He takes people who have committed great sins and restores them. Be encouraged as you read about the repentance and restoration of one of the greatest heroes in the Bible, King David, the "man after God's own heart."

Everyone loves the story of a great comeback, like an injured athlete who competes again, or a celebrity who overcomes an addiction. In life, we all fail at times – morally, relationally, and spiritually. We hurt others and offend God. When that happens, how can we recover? In Psalm 51, David shows us by writing about his own failure.

One day King David saw an attractive woman named Bathsheba and wanted her. Her husband Uriah was away with the army, so David summoned Bathsheba to his palace and slept with her. After she became pregnant, David tried to cover it up. He called Uriah home, hoping he would sleep with his wife. But Uriah refused to enjoy the comforts of home, so David arranged to have him killed in battle. David then took Bathsheba as one of his wives. About a year later – after their child was born – David still had not acknowledged his adultery and murder. So God sent a prophet to confront him with the terrible consequences of his actions. (2nd Samuel chapters 11 and 12).

David finally confessed, writing Psalm 51 as a reflection of his repentance.

The Big Picture: In order to truly overcome the weight of sin, we must truly and properly grieve it. Uncovering our sin before God invites healing into the darkest hurts and deepest failures.

Discussion:

Share:

- Who are some of the most positively influential people in your life? How do they help make you a better person?

Discuss:

Sermon Review:

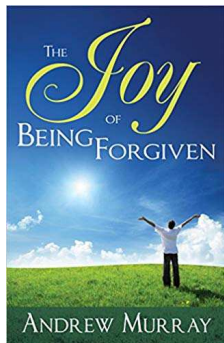
- Re-read Psalm 51.
- Review the sermon from this week. Write down any questions or thoughts that stand out to you as you review the sermon together. Discuss them as a group.
Link: <https://www.cornerstonecrystal.org/messages/>

- Which of the following is hardest for you to experience when it comes to your personal sin and God's forgiveness?
 - Contrition: truly grieving your sin
 - Confession: being honest about your sin before God
 - Cleansing: receiving God's healing from sin
 - Conciliation: letting go of the struggle with sin and grabbing on to God's peace
 - Commitment: fighting against temptation, sin, guilt and shame

Why is this hardest for you to experience?

- Which gives you more trouble: being forgiven or forgiving others? Why do you think this?
- Do you agree with Pastor Jeremy that sin management is much like playing with fire? Why or why not?
- What are ways that you think someone can truly grieve sin and its effects?
- Where do you most need to experience God's forgiveness today?

Further Exploration on this Topic:



The Joy of Being Forgiveness by Andrew Murray

From the Publisher: You can live in freedom from the pain, guilt and shame of the past!

Andrew Murray's in-depth study explains the wonderful effects of being forgiven. As you read and follow the principles in this book, you will discover that...

- Your burden of sin is lifted
- Your guilt is washed away
- You know the freedom of forgiveness
- You are able to live in God's presence
- Your joy overflows
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You can receive the forgiveness you have been seeking!

Link: <https://www.amazon.com/Joy-Being-Forgiveness-Andrew-Murray-ebook/dp/B00GM36PVW>