

## SummerInThePsalms #11 – My Sin!

### Psalm 51

Our Summer in the Psalms brings us to a somber stop before a fallen hero.

David conquered Goliath the giant, but a giant of his own choice felled him. It is part of his record, the Songbook of the Soul, and God instructed to visit as well.

### In a society or culture where...

- Right is called wrong and wrong, “right”.
- Sin has been minimized, legitimized, even glorified
- Even God’s people have been conformed to the world rather than transformed by the renewing of their minds
  - They tolerate and excuse what God has cleared forbidden
  - They openly embrace what God has condemned
  - They flippantly say “yes” when God has said “no” and they say “No” when God says “yes”.
  - They are more like the world around them than the God who saved and lives in them

### It is critical that God’s people know and fear sin.

Kids, parents, grandparents... Every single one of us this morning...

- Sin is real.
- It is our greatest enemy as it works in our very nature, and it is just as deadly now as Eden.
- The goal is always the same: To turn us from God to.... And fail. Suffer. Die.

Adrian Rogers, one of my favorite preachers, used to warn

*“Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.”*

He was right, and in our text today, we see that truth in living color.

Before we turn to our text,

1. Remember what we have learned in our Summer in the Psalms: **The reason we are directed to the Psalms is because God intends them to not only teach us truth but draw us to Him.**

In our deepest, fiercest battle, the battle with sin in the core of our soul, He is our answer.

2. David, the man after God's own heart, the great giant killer and king, **listened to his own sinful heart and fell.**

- He wasn't immune to it; neither are we.
- He couldn't control it or escape the consequences, nor can we.
- **God had an answer for David, and He does for us too!** That's why Psalm 51 is here, and that is why we visit it today.

Psalm 51 provides a **frightening warning** for every one of us, and **a way back** for when we fail. **With that in mind, notice**

### **I. The Confession. Vs. 1-6**

**A. Vs. 1- David begins with recognizing his need for and pleading for MERCY.**

1. **Mercy** is "the withholding of that which we deserve", fresh and new every morning
2. **The Measure** – "according to thy lovingkindness"
3. **"My"** – No excuses, No ducking or minimalizing – **David accepted the responsibility of His choices!**

**\*\*Cultural note: While we stand aghast at what David did, as a middle eastern monarch what he did would have been considered by the world of that time to be totally normal, acceptable!**

David – "It's me Lord...

**B. Confession is "agreeing with" God. Listen to David's heartbroken confession:**

1. **"blot out my transgressions"** –

**"Blot out"** – "remove something entered against us" – **debts** in a ledger; **indictment** in a charge or legal record

**"transgressions"** – "rebellion", "high-handed revolt against divinely constituted law" – (Philipps)

Cf. John 3:18 – **"condemned already"**

## 2. **"wash me thoroughly from my iniquity"**

- **"Wash me"**: Word for wash which means to scrub, clean deeply,
- **"wash me thoroughly"** – Hebrew – *"multiply to wash me"* – i.e. the need is greater than normal solutions
- **"my iniquity"** – *"crookedness; twistedness; perverseness"*

## 3. **"cleanse me from my sin"**

**"cleanse"** –

a primitive root; properly, **to be bright**;

by implication) **to be pure** (physical sound, clear, unadulterated;

**Leviticallly, uncontaminated; morally, innocent or holy)**

**"sin"** – *"miss the mark"; "tripping in the act of walking"*

## C. Vs. 3-6 **"For..."**

### 1. Vs. 3 – **The Honest Acknowledgement** –

**"I acknowledge my transgression"**

**"my sin is ever before me"**

### 2. Vs. 4 - **The Ultimate Failure** – **When we sin...**

A peculiar verse

David had wronged Bathsheba, Uriah and many others to varying degrees. Yet – In His confession – **He goes to the Source – God Himself, the righteous creator of all and the very one from whom rules of right and wrong emanate;**

Basically, David is saying:

**"I defied your essence"**

**"I rebelled against your law and missed the holy mark."**

**"I am crooked, perverse, warped as I view myself before You!"**

### 3. Vs. 5 - **"Behold"** - **The Original Flaw:**

David had explored the wonders of God's creation. He had written and sung of how "wonderfully and fearfully" we are made!

- Yet, God had revealed an astonishing truth of the depth of his depravity – **He was a sinner by nature!**
- He **was flawed from conception!**

- Conception is not sinful; That which is conceived inherits the sin nature!

#### D. "Behold" - Vs. 6 – Revelation and gratitude...

For God's work in leading us to sinful awareness and repentance!

- God's will – "*truth in the inward parts*"
- God's work – "*in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom*"

"I Can See Clearly Now"

#### II. The Cry. Vs. 7-12

Having faced the full weight of his guilt, *David now turns his face upward.*  
He's not just admitting his sin — *he's pleading for God to undo its grip.*

#### Vs. 7 – "purge me with hyssop... clean"

Refers to the ceremonial proclamation of a leper's cleansing!

#### Vs. 7 – "wash me... I shall be whiter than snow"

Same word as earlier. "Lord, deep clean me". *Like a garment on a scrub board* – remove every trace of crimson sin, and make me white!

Cf. Isaiah 1:18 -

*Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*

#### Vs. 8 – From deafness and pain to joy and gladness!

#### Vs. 9 – Lord – remove the wedge which my sin put between us!

I see my sin; *please look beyond it!*

#### Vs. 10- "Create in me a clean heart"

Same word as Genesis 1:1 – "God created" – "bara"- to make something from nothing!

David – There's nothing left. I've crashed and burned and am nothing but ashes!

Isaiah prophesying of Jesus- Isa 61:3

*To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness*

Vs. 10 – “renew a right spirit”

Renewal is needed! “Revival”

Vs. 11 – The Worst Fear As A Child Of God:

*“Cast me not away from thy presence”*

Sin cannot separate us from Him and His love (Romans 8:38-39)

Sin can break our fellowship and leave us feeling isolated and alone!

*“take not thy holy spirit from me”*

\*\*\*Note: First time in the Old Testament that the Holy Spirit is mentioned!

**The Old Testament** working of the Spirit is different than in the New. Old Testament – God's Spirit would move on and in people; It would also leave.

David knew of Samson. He had seen the Spirit of the Lord move from King Saul in his rebellion.

**David was praying that God wouldn't cease working in his life!**

For us:

We can “*resist the Holy Spirit*”, “*quench the Holy Spirit*” and “*grieve the Holy Spirit*”, but we are sealed by that very Holy Spirit until the day we stand before Him in heaven! He will never leave or forsake us!

Vs. 12 – Restoration and Rest!

III. The Consequence. Vs. 13-19 - “Then...”

God doesn't just forgive and forget us, or leave us limping — **He restores so we can rise again and walk in His ways.**

1 John 1 - That "you... **may have fellowship... that your joy may be full**".

*Listen as beauty begins to rise beyond the ashes and hope begins to sing!*

**A. Testimony! Vs. 13** – Others will respond because of what they see You do in me!

**B. His Song** - **"my tongue shall sing"** – vs. 14

**C. Praise** – vs. 15

**D. The Heart of the Matter: Lesson learned: vs. 16-17...**

**All that really matters to God begins in the heart!**

- When my heart is set on Him, everything else follows.
- If my heart is not right with Him, nothing else matters!

**E. vs. 18-19- The Future Is In Your Hands – not mine!**

I'm not the answer for Israel, the hope for tomorrow- **YOU ARE!**

**CLOSE**

**Psalm 51 is David's cry, but it's also God's invitation.**

- We've seen the confession — the honesty that sin is real and deadly.
- We've heard the cry — the plea for God to make new what sin had ruined.
- And we've watched the consequence — that forgiven hearts **can sing again and speak His praise.**

**Centuries later, the greater Son of David took sin upon Himself on the cross.**

Every sin – David's, ours - was paid for and eternal love and life made possible! *"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"*. Romans 6:23

**1. If you've never trusted Him as your Savior, why not? Why not, now!**

## 2. Church... Children of God...

We have seen the horror and heartbreak of David's sin. **Why?**

- The **world seeks to minimize, legitimize and even anesthetize** God's children to sin's reality and results.
- A little voice deep within us **lies to us constantly**, and whispers... *It's ok. It won't hurt you. Go ahead...*

But His Word is clear:

- *"Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap..."* Galatians 6:7.
- *"Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren."* James 1

We not only have **the record of history**, and even more - **God's Word**, we have **Our secret stories** that can **also** testify of the danger and deadly consequences.

We know, don't we?!

So why Psalm 51... today?

**1. Serve... Live... Love in the wonder of our Savior!** **\*\* According to 2 Samuel 12, David's downfall started when he stayed home...**

**2. Warning!! Don't!**

Be warned of the danger of sin actively working within and around us.  
Barney – on Andy Griffith – "Nip it in the bud!!"

**3. Repent! Come back!**

Some right this very minute are **running full speed into regret** just as David did... and even now, this very moment,

**The Spirit of our loving God is convicting... calling...**

You can't go back, but you can right this moment turn to the One who turns ashes to beauty!

If you've lost your song, your joy, your peace — this is the way back.

**Across this congregation are broken vessels and lives that have been in ashes who today are alive, signing, serving, testifying of the goodness and grace of God! You can too!**

The God who answered David's cry hasn't changed. He's still in the business of taking the broken and making them whole... and that work can start today.