

We can be forgiven for our sin - and still live in bondage to our sin.

Can I really know freedom from the ongoing sin of our life?

Some of you doubt you will ever know freedom from the same sin that entangles your life so often. And so you ask-

We can know Jesus as Savior - and still live to find joy in everything but Him.

Can I really know the joy of Christ?

Some of you believe there is more joy than you know in Christ – but you have never tasted it. And so you ask-

What made David a man after God's own heart? We have been studying the life of David thru 1 & 2 Samuel seeing how God gave him life, real abundant life as Jesus promised us, in the midst of chaos. What made David know this life? What made David a man after God's own heart? Was he just a better man or person than you and I are? Was it his goodness? Maybe you know this story – maybe you don't but I think this will help us all understand he didn't know life because his actions and thoughts were always good or simply more pure than yours.

David and Bathsheba – is a common story of miss-placed passion – that led to death.

David took another man's wife. David was enslaved to sin in the area of marriage and sex. And, in this case it would cost: a marriage, (Bathsheba and Uriah), a man's life (Uriah – Bathsheba's husband), a child (David and Bathsheba became pregnant from their affair), and it would cost David years of broken marriages and rebellious children some seeking to kill him, and some who died because of their rebellion.

What happened – 2 Sam 11 and 12 tell us the story (read it): David should have been off to war with his army, instead he was home. Living in disobedience to his calling led to another act of disobedience. He saw Bathsheba bathing – sent for her – and then slept with her. They became pregnant. To cover their sin – David recalled Uriah from the battlefield – to be with his wife. But he would not sleep with her, while his men were dying in battle. So, David sent him off to fight and has the commander retreat exposing Uriah and the men he leads. He dies. David takes Bathsheba into his chambers – thinking it is all done. But God exposes his sin through a prophet named Nathan. Then their son dies as punishment for their sin and David is told – this is not all, your wives will cheat on you in the daylight and your children will rebel. Sometime shortly after this - David writes this Psalm of brokenness and repentance. We know this bc it is captured for us in the heading of this Psalm: **To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.**

There is so much we could talk about in this Psalm – What is repentance? What does it look like? What does ongoing repentance look like as opposed to repenting for just an act? But today – with the time we have – I want us to focus on where everything begins if we are to know freedom from sin and joy in Christ. In this Psalm - God says, it begins with a heart that is broken and contrite. At this place – I will begin to free you from sin and move you to live in the joy of Christ I made for your life. Here is our main truth or big idea for today.

Freedom from sin and joy in Christ - begins as we plead for a broken and contrite heart.

This Psalm is a prayer – so we are going to learn together today how to put these words into a prayer.

01. Plead with God to begin this work - because God alone gives life from the death of sin.

02. Plead for a broken and contrite heart.

03. Plead to live from this broken and contrite heart.

Psalms 51:8 (ESV) ... let the bones that you have broken rejoice. David declares who has done this work of brokenness in his life. Literally, he did not have any broken bones in this event as far as we know. Rather, he is declaring a the feeling of having his heart wrecked – broken by the hand of God. *We begin here in our prayer:*

01. Plead with God to begin this work - because God alone gives life from the death of sin.

Psalms 51:1-2 (ESV) 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

“Have mercy” - The first of 19 imperative verbs or command verbs. There are 4 (Have mercy, blot, wash, cleanse) in these two verses. *The point - David isn't commanding God but these verbs do show that he is begging or pleading with God to do work in his life because of his sin. And it begins with “have mercy”.*

Plead with God to begin this work - because God alone gives life from the death of sin.

David says as much in vs 1-2 as he pleads with God to give His mercy, remove his sin, and heal and restore him from his sin. But he gets very clear about who is the only one who can do soul work in vs 10 and 12.

Psalms 51:10, 12 (ESV) 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, ...

- **God alone creates.** (same word in Gen 1:1 - In the beginning God created ...).
- **God alone renews our spirit.** (to bring healing to that which is broken).
- **God alone SAVES and restores the joy of His salvation.**

Plead with God to begin this work - because God alone gives life from the death of sin.

Why do we plead? We don't plead for repentance because God is withholding mercy and forgiveness like a villain in a movie who is wanting us to beg for mercy. We don't plead because God is stingy in giving his renewing and restoring presence. **Rather, we have to plead because in our sin nature – we do not want to turn from sin. Not only do we not want to – God says we cannot.** So, we must plead for God to begin this work in us and it begins God says with a broken heart. So we begin by pleading for a broken heart. What is this?

02. Plead for a broken and contrite heart.

Psalms 51:16-17 (ESV) 16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Pleading for a God to break something doesn't sound super appealing. Sounds like it will hurt and sounds like there is probably a better way to find the freedom and joy I long for. I think there are many reasons we avoid pleading for God to give us a broken and contrite heart – but here is one of the biggest.

- **In vs. 16, God says there is a solid reason in our brains we don't plead with God to break our hearts:** We believe we can fix ourselves – change ourselves.
- **For you will not delight in sacrifice:** Context. God is not saying we do not need someone else to make us right before God. Rather, what he is saying, when we realize our broken sin-full condition – doing some act of spirituality is not going to fix it.

All the things we could ever do to try harder, pray, read the bible, serve others, give more - can in no way remove our sin, make us right before God, or transform us into people who will continue to turn from sin and walk in the joy God has for us in Christ. (vs 16)

One of the most deadly sins described all through God's word is that of self-righteousness.

The idea that we can fix our selves or make ourselves right was the heart disease of the religious leaders of Jesus' day and he spoke harshly against this sin. Why? It is a mirage.

What is a mirage in the desert? It is a hallucination where the dehydrated wanderer believes there is water and life – only to crawl up on more death. Self-righteousness is a mirage – that promises life but only gives death to you and others.

We cannot fix ourselves – so we must plead for God to bring the change our heart needs.

God moves in us and through us with His power – when we are broken and contrite over our sin.

- *What does a broken heart look like? How will you know God has done this in you? (vs 17)*

A broken heart = seeing the true horror and death of sin (as God sees sin)

A broken and contrite heart = when we embrace that *OUR* heart is full of horrifying and deadly sin and we long for another to bring beauty and life.

Psalms 51:3-4, 14, 5 (ESV) 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, ... 14 Deliver me from blood guiltiness O God.

David proclaims his **broken and contrite heart** - *I know my transgressions, my sin is ever before me –*

EVIL – in your sight (death has come at David's hands, breaking of covenant, ruining of lives, and more.)

Our sin is not just mistakes, or bad choices, or being naughty – it is horrifyingly evil because it is the opposite of our holy God. And it is horrifyingly evil – because it always, always, always leads to death – deliver me from blood guiltiness. His sin led to the death of Uriah and his son and would lead to the death of others.

David embraced his horrifying and deadly sin in regards to Bathsheba, but he also embraced that he was sin-full. 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

*This is not just about recognizing a sin – adultery in David's case – but recognizing that we are sin-full and in desperate need for a complete and radical change to our wrecked life. It begins with embracing this truth – **I wreck things bc I am a wreck. I break things – because I am broken.***

Pause – and go thru this slowly one more time.

This is what we are pleading our God for. God show me how horrifying and deadly sin-full I am. In sports – a broken team is a bad team that is getting pounded all the time bc they are bad. Broken and contrite means they know it. Many of us are like the 10 year old team I coached that lost 25-1 in 4 innings in a tournament and they all said that team wasn't that good. Could have beat them. That's broken but not contrite. Broken and contrite is West Ham United fans in British Soccer chanting to Man City fans this year – "you're nothing special – we lose every week."

We are pleading to embrace our horrifying and deadly sin-fullness – but to the end that we become desperate for God to bring us beauty and life.

David longed for this.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Sacrifices in the Jewish worship brought forgiveness, healing, restoration with God as they worshiper faithed the work of ONE to come who would take the punishment for our sin-fullness. Here God is saying faith that as I break your heart for your sin – forgiveness, healing and restoration is coming from me. How?

God broke Jesus with our sin – so we could know healing from his life.

O see the beauty of Jesus and what He did. See the power of his sacrifice – that gives life.

No longer do we bring sacrifices hoping in the One to come. He has come – our act of worship no – bring your broken and contrite before God. This he loves. This he will cherish.

I have spent the majority of my life – believing God wanted me to be a man who was always strong and courageous, who was rarely repented bc he rarely sinned, who led by always being an example of goodness.

Because of this – I had a small need for Jesus. I just needed to be good enough for others to see.

We asked at the beginning – what made David a man after God's own heart: I don't believe it was his goodness – I believe it was his brokenness. His broken and contrite heart.

Are you desperate for Jesus on some kind of daily - weekly basis?

If not – it is because you are not living in the awareness (contrite) of your brokenness.

03. Plead to live from this broken and contrite heart.

Psalms 51:12 (ESV) Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Life in this broken and contrite heart will mean a life of ongoing repentance. Not just a moment of repentance when we are caught – but a life of repentance daily.

Uphold me with a willing spirit.

This is the plea of our heart – break it and keep it broken o Lord!

Plead to live from this broken and contrite heart bc it leads us to begin to see and want the beauty and life in Christ.

Psalms 51:11 (ESV) Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

David pleaded to God not to take away the most beautiful thing and the only thing that truly gave David life – God's presence.

Old Covenant – God's presence came and went for God's purposes. David did not want to lose Him.

New Covenant – By the Cross – we get God's presence bc by His sacrifice we are made right and holy – a temple for his very presence. And, we get to keep God's presence because this is how we are his forever His.

Psalms 51:13,15 (ESV) 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

Plead to live from this broken and contrite heart because it leads us to declare Jesus as our joy and freedom from sin.

Humanly, who was responsible for David being exposed to his broken heart? Nathan the prophet. God used another man with a broken heart to graciously declare to David – you are a wreck and bc of that you wreck things. When we live in a broken heart – God uses us to declare Jesus as the most beautiful thing – alone full of joy. And, He uses us to return rebels, broken hopeless self-righteous rebels to Him.

Freedom from sin and fullness in Christ - begins as we plead for a broken and contrite heart. Let's plead together this morning for a broken and contrite heart.

Ask God to show your great sin-FULLness today.

Ask him to show you the horror and death of your sinful heart.

Plead with him to show you how beautiful and life giving He is.

Matt Chandler the Rose, Kim single mom, adultery, takes to a service a friend is leading worship at – “Who would want this rose,” is the crescendo of his sex talk.

BLESSING - Ps 40:1-3