



Sermon Guide: David: Failure 02/01/26

Text(s): Psalm 51 1-12 and 2 Samuel 11&12

Big Idea: *God exposes sin to heal sinners.*

Summary of the Sermon - In Psalm 51, David teaches us how to pray when our sin has been exposed and the hard season is our own making. God does not expose sinners to shame them, but to heal them, inviting us into honest prayer marked by mercy, confession, repentance, and restored joy. Because of Christ, even painful exposure can become the doorway back into God's presence.

Discussion Questions

1. Psalm 51 shows David responding to God after his sin is exposed. What stands out to you about how David prays rather than just what he prays?
2. The sermon emphasized that *God exposes to heal sinners*. How does that reframe the way you think about God's discipline or conviction?
3. David appeals first to God's mercy before saying anything about himself. Why do you think beginning there matters for honest prayer?
4. The sermon distinguished between **confession** (telling the truth) and **repentance** (asking God to change us). Which of those feels more difficult for you, and why?
5. David prays both to be cleansed and to be made new. Why do you think we need both forgiveness and transformation?
6. The message defined joy not as the absence of consequences, but as the presence of God. How does that definition challenge or encourage you?
7. Without sharing specifics, what are some ways people today might try to hide rather than come into the light—and what makes coming into the light feel risky?
8. **For personal reflection before the Lord:** Did God bring up any sin in your life that you need to bring before him in honest prayer?