

KING DAVID — ♦ ♦ ♦ — AND HIS KING



Confession– Psalm 51

March 4, 2024

“The mercies of God. They go on forever. And they *always* outnumber our sins.”

As we trace the story of King David, we arrive at his darkest moment; the day the man after God’s own heart became guilty of rape and murder. Is there ever hope for sin so bad to be forgiven?

Listen as Lewis Roderick takes us to Psalm 51 and we hear David’s prayer of confession and his restoration to gospel joy.

For personal reflection/community discussion

Read – Read the passage in its context several times. Read it slow enough to understand what God is saying through it.

- What ideas or words are emphasised, repeated or related in this passage?
- In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage? (Try to summarise these verses in 10 words or less)

Examine – Next, try to understand the specifics of what the passage is communicating.

- What do you notice about God? What has he done/is he doing in these verses?
- What do you learn about Jesus and his gospel from this passage?
- What does it reveal about people?

- How do you think the writer wanted his reader to respond to these words?

Apply - After seeking to understand God's Word in this passage, consider how he intends to use it in your heart and life today.

- Before you heard today's message, what did you think of confession? Which of the reasons that Lewis gave for why one might not confess our sins resonated deepest with you? *Why?*
- "The Father is infinitely more merciful than you are sinful". Why is this difficult to believe? Listen again to Jack Miller; *is this the way you picture God the Father?*

"The Father promises to receive contrite sinners on a daily - no hourly - basis... no matter what your sins, unlimited mercy is available to those who turn to God through Jesus' merits... The Father has put himself under eternal obligation to returning children... He must open his mighty arms and embrace every returning child. And he must do it every day. He has promised to do it. And God cannot lie... No sentimentalist inviting sinners to self-pity, this Holy Father sees humanity in all its nastiness and is yet given to strange, tender excesses. His love explodes into joyous action whenever a convicted sinner turns toward home. A glimpse of the exile is enough."

- In the death of Christ, God has done everything we need to know renewal and restored joy. What might you need to do to know likewise in your life? (Consider David's honesty in confession and boldness in asking).
- The Psalm ends with a restored King praying for Jerusalem (vv.18+19). Spend some time praying for yourself and for your church community - that we would be a people who know again the joy of our salvation!