

Psa 51 - What Happens When We Sin?

The Back Story David & Bathsheba SIN IS SERIOUS --- GOD IS MERCIFUL --- CHANGE IS POSSIBLE

Psa 51:1-19 ESV To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when **Nathan the prophet went to him**, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

- **God loved him enough and was merciful enough to confront his sin - in a redemptive way**

GOD IS MERCIFUL - As soon as David is confronted of his sin, he cries out for mercy

1(b) Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy

- **David appeals to the MERCY, His STEADFAST LOVE and ABUNDANT MERCY**
 - **He appeals to MERCY** = to bestow favor, the kindness shown by stooping to an inferior
 - **Mercy is based in STEADFAST LOVE - "chesed"**
 - CHAD BIRD "If there is one Hebrew word that encapsulates who God is and how he acts toward us it's the Hebrew word chesed חֶסֶד: This word has been translated as covenant loyalty, lovingkindness, faithful love, graciousness, mercy--all these various English words. But none of them are really adequate to translate what chesed is. Trying to compress it into one English word is like trying to catch a waterfall in a cup. It is truly untranslatable love. It's no-holds-barred mercy. It's the kind of fidelity that will be faithful to us even if it cost him the life blood of his Son. Chesed is the kind of love that chases us to the ends of the earth, and places us atop the shoulders of God, and rejoices, dances, all the way home. If there really is one English word that captures what chesed is, it is Christ himself. He is the chesed of the Father -- made flesh for us."
 - **It is called ABUNDANT MERCY** - ABUNDANT - enough--compassion - to cherish the womb

SIN IS SERIOUS

- **Mercy doesn't happen in a vacuum** - Psa 85:10 KJV Mercy and **truth** are met together

1(c) **blot out** my transgressions. 2 **Wash** me thoroughly from my iniquity, and **cleanse** me from my sin!

- David uses three words to describe his sin →
 - (transgression) = **rebellious and willful nature**
 - (iniquity) = his **deeply corrupt state**
 - (sin) = **sinful actions**
- **He appeals to God, because ONLY GOD can blot out, wash and cleanse**
- This was not just a confession of **sin** (the actual act) - he recognizes deeper issues of **iniquity** (perverse, crooked) and **transgression** (willful rebellion, not a mistake)
 - **Blot out** = erase **TRANSGRESSION willful rebellion**
 - **Wash** - a thorough washing - i.e. stomping feet **INIQUITY - perverse crooked**
 - **Cleanse** - emphasizes spiritual and **ceremonial purification SIN - the sinful action**
- *Isa 53:5-6 ESV But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned--every one--to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is **ever before me**.

- **My sin is my constant companion**

4 Against you, **you only**, have I sinned and done what is evil in **your sight**, so that **you may be justified in your words** and blameless in **your judgment**.

- **He understood the consequence of his sin and God's judgment**

CHANGE IS POSSIBLE

5 **Behold**, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. 6 **Behold**, you delight in **truth** in the inward being, and **you teach me wisdom** in the secret heart.

- Yet David leaned into what God wants (TRUTH & WISDOM) rather than excusing the sin

7 Purge me with hyssop, and **I shall be clean**; wash me, and **I shall be whiter than snow**.

- Hyssop calls to mind ritual purification - to be pure before the Lord
- Hyssop was dipped in blood to sprinkle on lepers to purify
- Hyssop was used to apply the blood of the passover lamb over the doorposts

He is asking God to do that which ONLY GOD CAN DO

9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

- V4 I have sinned and done what is evil **in your sight** -- NOW **hide your face**
- More than that ERASE or BLOT OUT iniquity

Undo the destructive nature of my sin

10 Create in me a **clean heart**, O God, and renew a **right spirit** within me. 11 Cast me not away from your **presence**, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a **willing spirit**.

- Give me a CLEAN HEART **vs** one stained by **sin**
- Renew a RIGHT SPIRIT **vs** deep seated crookedness and perversion or **iniquity**
- Uphold me with a WILLING SPIRIT **vs** a rebellious heart of **transgression**
- **V4 evil in you SIGHT - 9 hide FACE from sin 10 don't cast me from your presence FACE**
 - **or take your Holy Spirit from me**
- **RESTORE THE JOY OF SALVATION**

This is what I will do

13 Then I will **teach transgressors your ways**, and **sinners will return to you**. 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and **my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness**. 15 O Lord, open my lips, and **my mouth will declare your praise**.

The sacrifices of God

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. 18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem; 19 then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

- Bulls and rams without the heart are meaningless sacrifices