

## “David’s Repentance” April 18, 2017

*Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar. (Psalm 51)*

Good morning, everyone. Today I will talk about David’s repentance. David was the king of Israel, and many people looked up to him. He did many righteous things. God was with him, and people considered him to be a good king. But when David committed sin, he had to go through the way of indemnity; the way of indemnity was the path of tears and great difficulty. We see in Psalm 51 that David committed not just an ordinary sin; he committed a horrible sin. He sent Uriah, an officer, to the front line to be killed, and then took Uriah’s wife Bathsheba as his own. In Psalm 51 we can see that he thoroughly repented for his sin. Today I want to talk about the content of his repentance.

**This psalm is well known; I am sure many of you have read it many times. What I want to ask today is how was it possible that David could make such a mistake, how was it possible that he could commit such a sin?**

David committed sin with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah. We need to remember that the descendants of the Fall are also fallen and, in a sense, cannot help but commit sin. The crime that David committed here is that he took the wife of the general who was on the frontline. David must have felt some pang of conscience, but he committed this crime anyway; apparently, he could not help himself.

**After committing this sin David wept and repented. He wept so much that his face became swollen. The Bible says that it is as if his intestines were turned inside out. This means that he must have suffered incredible pain because of his sin. He did not realize that it was a sin before he committed it, but the prophet Nathan came to him and talked about it.**

Nathan told David a parable about a rich man who had a flock, and a poor man who had nothing except one ewe lamb that lived with him and his family. This lamb was like a member of his family. There was a traveler who came. Instead of the rich man taking one of his flock to feed the traveler, he took the poor man’s only little ewe, killed it, and fed it to the traveler.

**David grew angry when he heard Nathan's story. He told Nathan that this man should die for what he had done. Nathan responded, "Well, actually, you are the person who has committed this tremendous sin that I am talking about." And that is when David felt such pain as if his intestines were turned inside out.** David repented and asked God to wash him thoroughly of his iniquity, to the extent that he would be the way he was before the sin was committed.

For David, this sin was still alive within him. He could not live with himself, so he pleaded with God to wash him clean of this sin. He prayed to God, saying that he could not face this sin, saying that he could not deal with it, so he begged God to make him right again. He asked God to "Renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit."

He was asking God to create within him the right spirit. Especially we see that David begged God to not cast him out of his presence. The most fearful thing for a human being today would be that God would cast us out of His presence that we would no longer be able to be in God's presence. David prayed that God would not take His holy spirit away from him.

**In the past I also committed sin, and when I did I prayed and asked God, "God, you can take everything from me, but please do not take this relationship of Father and daughter that we have. You take everything from me, but please don't remove your spirit from me." I prayed, "Please don't take away this experience that I can call out to You as Father and You answer to me, you respond to me. Please don't take that away from me!" I prayed that God would restore within me the joy of His salvation.**

David repented also before God, confessing to God that he was a sinner from the time that he was born from his mother's womb. He said that his mother had conceived him in sin. When he repented, he repented deeply and sincerely with a tremendous heart. I hope that this morning hour can be a time when we can ask God, plead with God, to hide His face from our sins, that He would cleanse us from our sins and restore His spirit within us. As David did, let's pray to God, because we were conceived in sin, and we have sin within us. Let's ask God not to look at our sin, but that He may cleanse us of our sin, and not even remember that sin.

David confessed and repented, shedding desperate tears, and that is how he received God's forgiveness. This morning let's remember that no matter how great a sin we may have committed, if we repent deeply and if we repent in tears, then God will forgive us and God will not even remember our sin because He is our Father. When we truly repent before God; when we approach God with that repentant heart, with that repentant spirit, then He is able to forgive us as our Father. One time, Jesus' disciples came to him and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother who sins against me? Up to seven times? Jesus answered, "I tell you, not just seven times, but seventy times seven times!"

We may think that we have committed a sin that is beyond redemption, beyond forgiveness. We commit sins that we know of and we commit sins that we don't know of, but no matter what sin we have committed, there is always a way to come to God in repentance and to receive His forgiveness.

Father often explained to us about the course of indemnity. The course of indemnity is a difficult course; it is a course of tears that Father explained in great depth. Father paid tremendous indemnity so that we may stand in the position of righteousness today. He fought desperate fights against Satan, and oftentimes he would be a mediator for us. Sometimes he would also come to us to help us pay indemnity to restore our sins. Even now he is coming to us, praying for us, paying indemnity for us.

When we approach Heaven, more than anything else, God wants us to approach Him with a heart of repentance so He can forgive the sins that we have committed. Let's remember about it this morning!

I think we realize that God truly is our Father of True Love; no matter what sin we have committed, He is always ready to forgive. He is always ready to pay indemnity for us so that we can be restored to the position of righteousness, so that His spirit can be restored and recreated within us. David repented with such great intensity that it was as if his insides were being turned inside out, so remember that this morning, and approach God in that way, with that kind of desperate repentance. **Let's remember how God forgave David, and how Father forgives us of all our sins, how he is able to recreate his spirit within us if only we approach him with this kind of deep and desperate repentance.**

Thank you very much.

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