

MESSAGE NOTES for "Psalm 51: A Psalm of Repentance"

Hope Community Church – Downtown Minneapolis

FB Live 10am (one online service)

June 28th, 2020

Pastor Steve Treichler

For His Glory and our joy!

Psalm 51

For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. ²Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. ⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. ⁵Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. ⁶Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

⁷Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. ⁹Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

¹⁰Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.

¹⁴Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. ¹⁵Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. ¹⁶You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. ¹⁷My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

¹⁸May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem. ¹⁹Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

OUTLINE:

Introduction: *The Need for Rest and Wisdom*

Today's Message: Psalm 51: A Psalm of Repentance

The Introduction and the Backstory

2 Samuel 11-12

Psalm 51: A Psalm of Repentance

A Cry for Mercy

Psalm 51:1-2

Raw Confession

Psalm 51:3-6

Restoration

Psalm 51:7-9

Inner Transformation

Psalm 51:10-13

Foreshadowing the Gospel

Psalm 51:14-17

2 Corinthians 5:21

God made him
who had no sin
to be sin for us,
so that
in him
we might become
the righteousness of God.

A Prayer for the Community of Faith

Psalm 51:18-19

Individual Gospel Application – “*Is all of your life repentance?*”

Community Gospel Application – “*Do we care about the least of these?*”

QUOTES:

We may be surprised to hear David say, *Against you, you only, have I sinned (51:4)*, because we tend to focus on David’s sin against other people, like Uriah whom he had murdered. We must not make the mistake of thinking that David is here acting like some African leaders who do not admit that they have failed their people or who think that they are above the law. David is not denying that he has hurt others. What he is doing is acknowledging that God is the righteous and holy judge. When we stand before him, naked and helpless in repentance, we will have eyes for no one else. His judgment, and his forgiveness, will be all that matters.¹

[Luther’s] first thesis reads,

When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said “Repent,” he intended that the entire life of believers should be repentance.

All of the Christian life is repentance. Turning from sin and trusting in the good news that Jesus saves sinners aren’t merely a one-time inaugural experience but the daily substance of Christianity. The gospel is for every day and every moment. Repentance is to be the Christian’s

continual posture... Almost 30 years later, on February 16, 1546, Luther’s last words, written on a piece of scrap paper, echoed the theme of his first thesis:

We are beggars! This is true.

From first thesis to last words, Luther lived at the foot of the cross, where our rebellious condition meets with the beauty of God’s lavish grace in the gospel of his Son – a gospel deep enough to cover all the little and massive flaws of a beggar like Luther and beggars like us.

~ David Mathis, *Luther's First Thesis and Last Words*,

<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/luthers-first-thesis-and-last-words>

True repentance *has a distinct and constant reference to the Lord Jesus Christ*. If thou dost repent of sin, without looking to Christ, away with thy repentance... A man may hate sin just as a murderer hates the gallows, but this does not prove repentance. If I hate sin because of the punishment, I have not repented of sin; I merely regret that God is just. But if I can see sin as an offence against Jesus Christ, and loathe myself because I have wounded him, then I have a true brokenness of heart.

¹ Tokunboh Adeyemo, [Africa Bible Commentary](#) (Nairobi, Kenya; Grand Rapids, MI: WordAlive Publishers; Zondervan, 2006), 665.

If I see the Saviour and believe that those thorns upon his head were [put there] by my sinful words; if I believe that those wounds in his heart were pierced by my heart-sins; if I believe that those wounds in his feet were made by my wandering steps, and that the wounds in his hands were made by my sinful deeds, then I repent of sin after a right fashion. Only under the cross canst thou repent. Repentance elsewhere is remorse which clings to the sin and only dreads the punishment. Let us then seek, under God, to have a hatred of sin caused by a sight of Christ's love.²

Festivities including concerts, bonfires, parades and the firing of cannons and muskets usually accompanied the first public readings of the Declaration of Independence, beginning immediately after its adoption. Philadelphia held the first annual commemoration of independence on July 4, 1777, while Congress

SCRIPTURE USED:

2 Samuel 11:1-5ff

¹In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

²One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, ³and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." ⁴Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. ⁵The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."

2 Samuel 12:1-9

¹The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, "There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. ²The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, ³but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

⁴"Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him."

⁵David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die! ⁶He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity."

² C. H. Spurgeon, "[The Pierced One Pierces the Heart,](#)" in *The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit Sermons*, vol. 10 (London: Passmore & Alabaster, 1864), 347–348.

⁷Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. ⁹Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites...”

2 Corinthians 5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Luke 18:9-14

⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

¹³“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

¹⁴“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Proverbs 13:12

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.