

Sunday Night Message

January 12, 2014

Psalm 51

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 51

Introduction

I The Context

We do not have to wonder what the context of this psalm is, for it is given to us parenthetically in the introductory material found in the first verse. This psalm surrounds the sin of David against God when he committed adultery with a married woman, and when he had her husband killed, and when he covered the whole thing up. Sinning against God is bad enough, but attempting to cover it up will only makes matters far worse.

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." (Proverbs 28:13)

Slowly read the story beginning in 2 Samuel 11:1, continuing all the way through until 2 Samuel 12:9.

II The Consequences

Sin always comes with a price attached to it, and the devil never tells us how much its going to cost, but rest assured, sin will always cost you more than you want to pay, and sin will always take you farther than you want to go.

- 1 The sword would not depart from David's house (2 Samuel 12:10)
- 2 God will allow David's son, Absalom, to rebel against David, and even allow him to lie with David's wives in public. (2 Samuel 12:11 - 12)
- 3 God would put David and Bathsheba's child to death. (2 Samuel 12:14 - 18)

III The Confession (Psalm 51:1 - 12)

The confession does not always remove all of the consequences. (2 Samuel 12:13) We erroneously think that all we have to do is confess and there will be no consequences – no chastisement. This is simply not true. While it is true that the consequences will be much worse without a confession.

David's confession to the man of God is recorded in 1 verse, v. 13, but David's confession to God is detailed for us in Psalm 51:1 – 12.

- 1 David's confession demonstrated true **contrition**. Contrition is mourning for one's own sinfulness that brings him to a place of repentance. (v. 17)

"The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." (Psalms 34:18)

"For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." (Isaiah 66:2)

Contrition involves total abasement, meaning everything is exposed and nothing is hidden – there is no longer any pride. A contrite person has hit the very bottom.

God hates pride:

"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate." (Proverbs 8:13)

"And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." (Matthew 23:12)

"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." (Proverbs 16:18)

David's pride brought him to destruction. David started out very humble, but when success came, then came the pride.

- 2 David's confession was **complete**.

He didn't try to place any of his blame on anything other than himself. Most of us try to deflect the blame at least partially on circumstances or other people; and sometimes, we even attempt to blame God.

Notice that confession restores joy.

IV The Conversion (Psalm 51:13 - 19)

David was already a believer, but sin had rendered him ineffective at fulfilling God's will. The primary purpose of all believers is to glorify God. Nathan said that David caused the enemies of God to blaspheme, which is the diametric opposite of glorifying God.

Once David puts this sin behind him through his confession, he can begin to do what God had called him to do. He can glorify God, and win people to Christ.

"And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." (Luke 22:31-32)

Is there anything between you and the Saviour? Why not confess it today before the consequence and chastisement of your sin gets worse.

Illustrate – Billy S. from The Christian Bible Baptist Church