

## Sunday Morning Message

June 25, 2023

Title – *Psalm 51 – Restoring the Joy of Salvation*

Text – Psalm 51; 2 Samuel

Congregational Reading – Psalm 51:1 - 19

### Introduction

We have been reading through the Psalms in our daily devotional reading on [pastorerickson.com](http://pastorerickson.com), and this psalm is scheduled to be read tomorrow.

Overall, David was a good king, but as we will examine in our Scriptures today, we will see that even good kings can at times commit some tragic and devastating sins, which will not only cause negative consequences for themselves, but also adversely affect the people they love. Sometimes, as was the case with David, those sins can also negatively impact future generations.

*"5 Because David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite." (1 Kings 15:5)*

David was a good king, but David, like all of us, had his moments of weakness in the flesh that blossomed into full blown rebellion against God. The psalm that we are examining this morning is David's song of contrition regarding David's sin of committing adultery with Bathsheba who was the wife of Uriah the Hittite, and then his subsequent murder of Uriah as an attempt to cover it all up.

This morning, we will examine both the historical passage dealing with this event as well as David's psalm of confession that reflected upon it. One purpose of this message is preventative in the sense that it will warn us about the awful consequences of sin. You may be playing around with things today that will ultimately lead you to great tragedy if you don't get turned around. The "big sins" are usually the result of many "little sins" that lead up to them. My goal this morning is to warn us all to stop before some tragic line is crossed.

This message will also be prescriptive in that it will tell you what you should do if you are in the middle of your own private rebellion against God and possibly also against the people in your life that you love, and that love you as well.

The message is simple – if you haven't crossed the line yet, don't! But if you have, stop! And get it right with God and the people involved before God must come to you. Repent and forsake whatever it is you are doing that is in rebellion against the will of God. Then, and only then, you can have the joy of salvation restored in your life.

## A. The Context (2 Samuel 11:1 – 12:9)

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 then had her husband killed, and then he attempted to cover 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.

## B. The Consequences (2 Samuel 12:10 – 18)

Sin always comes with a price attached to it, and the devil never tells us how much it's going to cost, but rest assured, as has been often stated: "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)

I think that it is important to note that the consequences of David's sins here with Bathsheba and Uriah were much worse than possibly they could have been because David did not come clean with God on his own, God had to come after him, and confront him through Nathan the prophet.

*"23 But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out." (Numbers 32:23)*

God knows about all your sin, so it is very unwise to try to hide it from him. It is far better to come clean with God immediately after your sin.

*"8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." (1 John 1:8-10)*

By the way, in most cases people will find out your sin as well. People have a way of finding and figuring out the juiciest gossip out there. They love talking about other people's sins. Again, it is best for you to come clean, especially with the people you have sinned against.

David thought he had his sin covered up, but God uncovered it and revealed it to everybody.

*"2 For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. 3 Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops."*

(Luke 12:2-3)

## I. The Confession (Psalm 51:1 – 12)

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

David's confession to the man of God is recorded in one verse (2 Samuel 12:13), 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.

## II. 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 diametrically opposite of glorifying God.

Once God put this sin behind David through David's confession, David could then 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)*

## Conclusion

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

1. If you are dabbling with something today that will eventually lead to your spiritual destruction – STOP! And then turn around. Repent! And get back on the right path before it destroys your life.
2. If you have already crossed many lines of sin, let me encourage you to come clean with God. Confess and forsake the sin. But let me also encourage you to come clean with the people in your life.

We are all sinners. We all sin. Let's not be phony and pretend that we are somehow exempt from messing up. Be a little more transparent. I think you will find that if you are humble and truly contrite or remorseful about your sin, people will be merciful with you.

3. Be merciful to others who are struggling with sin because you struggle with sin as well.

To the Christian - I entitled this message *Restoring the Joy of Salvation*. You cannot possibly have the joy that God intends for you to have if you are living a double life. You need to get rid of the sin that you know is building a wall between you and the Lord. Confess it, forsake it, and then realize the forgiveness and cleansing that you have in Christ.

To the Lost Person – You cannot possibly have that joy until you come the Cross. Your sin will ultimately send you to Hell unless you place your faith in Christ's finished work of redemption on the Cross. He died for your sins, as your substitute, and He is willing to forgive you and cleanse you of all your sins if you will simply come clean with Him and ask Him for forgiveness.