

Lesson 12

A Repentant Heart

Psalms 51 and 32

Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Summary

The truly repentant heart understands its sin, its sinfulness and comes to the Lord for mercy, forgiveness, cleansing and change.

Reflection on David's Sin

How he committed adultery, murder and a major attempt at cover up.

How God granted the grace of guilt and repentance through the prophet, Nathan.

We have two major texts that are David's reflection on his own sin.

The Penitent Saint - Psalm 51

How does the structure of the Psalm help us with understanding the nature of genuine repentance?

Plea for Mercy

(v. 1-2)

¹ *Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.*

² *Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!*

God's mercy needed

My sins are many

Agreement with Truth

(v. 3-6)

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

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.*

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.

Who I have sinned against – its upward dimension

Why I have sinned – its inward dimension

Plea for Cleansing

(v. 7-12)

Three sets that reflect one another...

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

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

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

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.

Cleanse me

Bring back the glad joy

Forgive me

Bring back the right spirit (attitude)

Return me

Bring back the joy of salvation

Affirmation of Responsibility

(v. 13)

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

I will teach...

This will lead us to Psalm 32 where that instruction takes place

Plea for Pardon

(v. 14-15)

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.

Deliver from judicial punishment – now we plead the cross of Christ!

I will sing...

Affirmation of Humiliation

(v. 16-17)

*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.*

Not sacrifices...

But a contrite and humbled heart...

Closing Prayer

(v. 18-19)

*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.*

May God do good for His people

May God delight in His people

The Instructing Saint – Psalm 32

Here is the blessedness of forgiveness...

Here is David instructing the people of God...

In our Experience

(v. 1-4)

*¹ Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.*

*² Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

*³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.*

*⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah**

Its Present Joy

Of being forgiven

Of being justified

Its Past Pain

The grace of guilt

The pressure of conviction

In our Poise

(v. 5)

Follow the parallelism...

⁵ *I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah*

What should we be inclined to do?

To Recognize our Sin

Are we more ready to defend our sin than to acknowledge it?

To Confess our Sin

A we quick to confess our sins?

In our Refuge

(v. 6-7)

An exhortation to God's people...

⁶ *Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters,
they shall not reach him.*

⁷ *You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance. Selah*

Prayer – We go to Him

While you can!

Protection – He is to us

A great stronghold!

In our Responsibilities

(v. 8-11)

How will we respond to other sufferers?

⁸ *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.*

⁹ *Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,
or it will not stay near you.*

¹⁰ *Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.*

*¹¹ Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!*

To Teach

In the way to go

To Counsel

With close attention

To Observe

To see in such a way that we evaluate or interpret

To Praise

Forgiven people experience and express joy

Reflecting on a Repentant Heart

Humility is a mark of the repentant heart...

A repentant heart makes a full acknowledgement of sin...

A repentant heart seeks God's forgiveness and cleansing...

A repentant heart will willing to listen before speaking...

A repentant heart is willing to speak to God's people:

 About the dangers of sin...

 About the mercies of God...

 About the forgiveness God grants...

 About the loss and restoration of joy...

 About the greatness of fellowship with God and His people...

A repentant heart delights God.

Questions for Discussion