

David

By Dr. Jeff Meyers

sermonaudio.com

Bible Text: Psalm 51
Preached On: Sunday, September 18, 2022

Crossroads Ministries
301 S. 8th Street
Opelika, Alabama 36801

Website: www.fbcopelika.com
Online Sermons: www.sermonaudio.com/jeffmeyers

Ooh, I don't know about y'all, but I had a little fun there tonight.

You know, for those of you that may not know a little bit of my back story, you know, you heard some of the group's back story tonight, there was a time in my life where for 200 nights a year, I didn't stay in my own home. I was younger and had, believe it or not, more energy in those days and I traveled the world, and the official title they gave me was an evangelist. That was the official title they gave me. I would find myself in rural communities, urban communities, I'd find myself sometimes using multiple translators, depending what the dialect was across seas, sometimes I was in my backyard, sometimes I was afar off. There were days I woke up, I didn't even know where I was. I just knew the gospel never changed whatever town I was in. And for reasons that I won't get all into tonight, the Lord redirected me and essentially this is what he prompted me and, Kate, this is your fault tonight. You got me going here. Is, he said, "You know, you can keep doing what you're doing or you can raise up other men to do what you're doing and multiply yourself. You won't be on the road like you used to be. You'll be at home." My wife was happy about that. "And it'll be a different road."

Well, the reason I share that with you in very brief is this, is you can take the evangelist off the road but you can't take him out of the man. And I joke with you all the time, I'm just an evangelist that's stuck in a pastor's body, you know. And that being said, in light of I know we joke around on stage with the guys and I teased about, guys, just go over wherever you want to go, but the whole time they were singing all I could see were those west Texas plains with the wind whipping and those old tents flapping and the dust rising up, and the reason I share that with you tonight is I'm going to go a little off script. I allowed them to go off script. I'm going to go a little off script just for a brief moment if you'll just give me a little bit of time. I want to go in the middle of your Bible to Psalms 51 and it's kind of an intense passage. I want to address an issue that's at the end of the passage, then we're going to get to the totality of it and I'm going to go ahead and warn you that in about 20 minutes or so we're going to have a time of response. I'm going to make it brief, as I promised. Hopefully the word of God will be quick and powerful, not just in time, but in our hearts.

Let me set the stage for Psalm 51. King David was in much the position that many of you and I are in today in our lives. He was in a culture and a society that was very well-to-do.

He himself had much a means. I mean, you think about it, he had resources that were abounding. He didn't have to worry about where his next meal was coming from and all intents and purposes, his city was secure. He was in a comfort zone, for a lack of better terms, and you know what happens when we get in comfort zones is at times we begin to slip into conformity and compromise and that's exactly what happened in his life. When the Bible says back in 2 Samuel, it says in the days that kings go out to war David stayed home. Do you realize what a dangerous position it is to be where God does not want you to be? Do you know how dangerous it is to be where God does not desire you to be? If God says go and you stay, you're in danger. If God says stay and you go, you're in danger. Well, God told David to go to battle and David stayed home. Now, I don't think any of us would blame him from a fleshly perspective. After all, it's safer at home. He was around his family. He was in the confines. I mean, he's king, after all. It is just best that the younger men who have "less to lose," go to battle. But that's not what God told him to do. God told him to go to war and he stayed home.

One night he couldn't sleep. Now a lot of people questioned why could King David not sleep? I'll tell you why he couldn't sleep, because he knew he was in the wrong place. He knew where he was supposed to be. He knew what he was supposed to be doing and he could not. He was wrestling, so what did he do? According to scripture, he got out of his bed, he went out in the cool of the night in his palace and he looked over the hill. There, as he looked over, was a sight he hadn't seen in a while. It was something that caught his attention. That sight was a woman named Bathsheba. You know, it's interesting that this famous, shall we say, blip on David's radar took place because he was in the wrong place at the wrong time and because of that, the Bible says that he solicited her, he desired her, and that evening she became a part of his life.

A few moments later, days and weeks, she comes knocking on the palace door and informs him that she is with child. Now he's got a big problem on his hand because everybody knows that her husband's been off to battle and everybody knows about this interaction. So he begins to get creative. He begins to concoct a plan. He goes, "Somehow I can get out of this mess." So he brings Uriah home. He says, "Uriah, I've got this great idea. You've been such a good, faithful soldier, you've been such an incredible a servant on the king's behalf, why don't you take a little vacation? Spend some time with your wife." Do you see how he was trying to cover his tracks? Remember what Uriah says? He says, "How can I enjoy the pleasures of my home when the other men are out on the front lines? I can't do this." In fact, the Bible says he slept even outside of his house. This messed up David's plan, so he got desperate. I mean, after all, people could not find out what had happened. It must remain a secret. So what did he do? He gave instructions to have him killed by his own men, friendly fire. Though the arrow may not have come from the men, they put him in a position to guarantee his death. If you're not familiar with the story, there was a quick arranged marriage, and if you can count the days on the calendar, surely people figured out what was going on.

Well, everybody just went along with the plan, kind of sounds like our world today, doesn't it? We concoct a story, we create some kind of diversion, and we come up with some type of explanation and everybody goes, "Okay, that's fine." But that's not what

happened with the Lord. You see, the Lord knew David's heart. The Lord knew what had happened. The Lord knew he was in disobedience. The Lord knew he wasn't in the right place. So he sends a man by the name of Nathan. Now can you imagine having Nathan's job? Nathan's job was to go tell the king, "You're wrong." Now, I'm not interested in applying for that job. You may be interested in applying for that job, because typically when people execute that job, they get executed, right? So the Lord comes to Nathan, he says, "Nathan, I want you to go and confront David about his sin." Now I want you to think about these two dichotomies, David is in the wrong place at the wrong time, doing the wrong thing because he's not where God wants him to be, but Nathan is in the right place doing exactly what God asked him to do, and God protects him in the process. Nathan goes to David, and being a wise man, he gives him an illustration about a man who has all the sheep in the world. There's another poor man who only has one, and the man who is wealthy and the man who is influential goes and he takes the sheep of that poor man for his own taking. He says, "David, what should we do to that man?" Do you remember what David said? "Kill him." Nathan's famous words, "Thou art the man." Nathan confronted David of his sin. Nathan confronted him of his wrongdoing.

Psalm 51. It's David's heart's cry. When David realized, "I'm the man," when David realized, "It's my fault," when David realized, "I'm the one to blame," Psalm 51 is what the Spirit of God gave him. And I wanted to set that stage because the words we're about to read are pretty punny, they're pretty powerful words. And so in Psalm 51, I'm going to read the entirety of it for you this evening, then we're going to kind of pull it full circle. It says, "Have mercy," those are the first two good words from a man who's just been caught, right?

1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness:
according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my
transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me
from my sin. 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever
before me. 4 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. 5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my
mother conceive me. 6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and
in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. 7 Purge me with
hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8
Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken
may rejoice. 9 Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.
10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.
11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from
me. 12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy
free spirit. 13 Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall
be converted unto thee. 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou
God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.
15 O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.
16 For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not
in burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken

and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. 18 Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. 19 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.

This was David's response after it was revealed unto him and he realized the magnitude of his sin. And now I want to begin with addressing something that's very critical to this passage. I want you to look at the last two verses, it says, "Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem." Tonight, you can go home and you can utilize whether your phone, your computer, or even a book on the shelf, and you can go look up the finest commentators and orators and all these people that love to give their opinion on scripture and you're going to find an interesting thread out there, is that most of these "experts" believe that David never actually originally wrote these last two verses. You say, "Well, why would they think that?" Because all the rest of the passage is about his sin, it's about his confession of sin, it's about his realization of his wrongdoing, it's about him coming clean before the Lord, and then all a sudden he starts talking about Jerusalem and the walls and sacrifices and they say, "Well, there is no way for this abruptness to be accurate. Somehow, someway, he never said these last two words." I'm going to give you a theological response to that ideology. Rubbish. David realized something that you and I need to realize, that our personal transgressions against a holy God impact the world around us. And he said, "If my life doesn't get right, how do I expect Jerusalem to be right? If my life is not right, how do I expect Zion to be in the right place?"

And our immediate thought is, "Well, that's great for David. I mean, he's king, he had influence, he had impact." Last time I checked and we just read through the entirety, where does he say, "I'm the king?" Where at any place does he say, "I'm in a position of authority and if I do this, then people will follow me?" He doesn't do it. In fact, he does the exact opposite. All he does is confess his frailties as a man. All he does is confess his transgressions as an individual created by God who has rebelled against his Creator. In fact, this passage is very personal. Over 30 times, over 30 times he uses the personal pronoun, "I was shapen in iniquity. I, me, this is my problem." Think about that, that's almost two times per verse in this chapter.

This is an important acknowledgment because we live in a society that even under the umbrella of Christianity that wants to say, "Well, it's really not my fault. If it hadn't been for them, then I would have never... or if it hadn't been for this, or if it hadn't been for that..." You know, there's an old adage that every time you point the finger at somebody else, there's three fingers pointing right back at you. King David didn't blame Uriah. I got news for you, King David didn't even blame Bathsheba. In today's society, this individual pointed out by Nathan would say, "But she shouldn't have been out there bathing in the first place." What does David say? "I was in the wrong place at the wrong time, tempted by the wrong thing, and I followed through. This is my fault."

Ladies and gentlemen, that is a revolutionary thought for our culture today to actually take ownership of our frailties, to take ownership of our faults. And then if you fast

forward and you get down to like verses 7 through 10, he makes this interesting declaration. He needs to be purged. Now last time I checked that's a painful word. You say, "What do you mean? Why is that painful?" Because when you purge something, that means you get rid of it. That means something that's become a part of you, something that it is a part of your life that no longer needs to be a part of your life. He says, "God, I need you to purge me with hyssop," and by the way, that is not the body wash that you buy down at the store, okay? That would have been a very painful process by which to undergo.

"I shall be clean, wash me and I shall be whiter than snow, make me hear gladness and joy that the homes which you've broken may rejoice, hide your face from my sin, blot out my iniquities." Listen to verse 10, "create in me a clean heart." Now, I'm sure you're familiar with this, particularly all the way back in the book of Genesis, but whenever you see the word "create" in scripture, it's something that God can do, man cannot replicate. It means to do something out of nothing. Basically what David is saying, "God, if you don't fix me, I'll never be able to fix myself." I want you to notice or show something to you. David didn't say he just needed more time. David didn't say, "I just need a period, I need this, I need that." He said, "No, if you don't do something brand new in my life, if you don't change me from the inside out, it's never going to be solved. I can't change the consequences. I can't change the repercussions." But more than anything, he's saying, "God, I need to be right with you." you.

And then he goes on to say then, "I will teach others." Verse 13, "I will teach transgressors their ways and sinners shall be converted unto thee." I think it's interesting when you get to verse 17, he says, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." Basically what David is saying is there are no amount of religious activities and endeavors that make you right with God. There's no amount of getting rid of this or adding that that somehow can fix the problem. He basically says, "This is a heart issue, God. My heart was in the wrong place, that's why I didn't go to war. My heart was in the wrong place, that's why I was on the roof. My heart was in the wrong place, that's why I invited Bathsheba. My heart was in the wrong place, that's why I tried to kill Uriah." Notice he didn't say, "If I had just sacrificed more, this wouldn't have happened." He didn't say, "Oh, if I'd just gone to church more, if I just stopped this." No, he said, "I have a heart problem, God, that I need you to fix."

The sacrifices of the Lord, a contrite heart, a broken spirit. Now in light of that I want to read verses 18 and 19 again. "Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. Then you will be pleased." It's interesting what King David is actually sharing with us. He says, "This is what will make God happy." Can I walk back through the steps? People who have sinned confess their sin and cry out for God to change them. Then those who he has changed teach other people who have sinned to flee their wicked ways and to come to the Lord. Isn't that what he just shared? "I will teach transgressors your ways." And then it doesn't matter what the outward expression is because inwardly we're right with you.

Do you know what David is doing? You may not notice this, he's giving us the formula for revival. How do we see God move in our homes? How do we see God move in our churches? How do we see him move in our communities? How do we see him move in our country? How do we see him move in our culture? It's real simple, people who have sinned against God confess their sin and then encourage other people to confess their sin and turn their heart to God. It's not complicated. We don't need a course. We don't need a program. We don't need any type of marketing scheme. All we need is for people to get right with God and when people get right with God, it convicts others to get right with God and next thing you know, Jerusalem and Zion and everything around them is impacted.

I know the guys joked with me about the baptism song. I know and I get it but, you know, that's not just a story for a fun gospel song. That's a real story. And the reason I say it's a real story is go back 100 years ago and read the stories of Billy Sunday. Billy Sunday was an evangelist, former pro baseball player turned evangelist. Do you know that Billy Sunday's ministry was so well-known that they would shut down the bars before he ever came to town because they were going to shut down eventually. They just went ahead and they got ahead of the curve. They knew they'd be out of business by the time Billy Sunday was done. It's interesting that even those lost men 100 years ago know that when people get right with God, it changes everything.

You know, people have asked me throughout the years have you ever seen real revival? Have you ever seen God really place his hand upon a small or even large group of people? And I want to share with you tonight even as I approach a half a century in age, I really think I've only seen it once. It was a small community, one of which, if I named the name, you would have never heard of it. You'd all start to Google it and you'd say, "You sure this is the right one?" It's it. Town of less than 1,000 people. Small middle of nowhere community but it was a place where the people decided to enact Psalm 51. They decided to call out to God, and I want to share with you an event that took place one night that will never leave my memory.

We were in a service much like this. It was an evening time. People had gathered. We had sung, I had preached and I gave the response. That night when I gave the response, something took place that started something. It was really that move of God in two individual's lives that changed the whole community. That night when I gave the invitation, there was a man to my right who walked down the outside aisle to meet me down front. And there was a man to my left who walked that outside aisle, and he met me in the front. Both of these men we found out were coming for their profession of faith. They were coming to call upon Jesus to save them. It was a very interesting situation because they kind of met in the middle and neither one knew they were coming, but when they saw each other, their faces lit up, they embraced, and they begin to cry. The one to my right was the mayor of the city. The one to my left was the town drunk. Both men and I like to tease weren't the same man, two different men, both men independently heard the call of God upon their life, responded to that call not caring what anybody... You do realize when you're the mayor of a town of less than 1,000 people, when you walk down the aisle of a Baptist church, you're going to be held accountable to it, right? You realize

when you're known as the town drunk like that song and you'll no longer be doing the things you've been doing, you're going to be held accountable for it. And when you walk down and realize that God worked in both of your lives independently, you know what happened to that little town? Everybody got on their face.

David never said, "Oh, I'm the mayor. I'm the king, I'm important." No, he just said, "I'm a man who has sinned and I need to confess it. I need to repent of it. I need God to do a work in my life." Ladies and gentlemen, before we get to our time of response, I know I'm not a very tall man physically but I've had it about up to here with people griping about the White House. I've had it about up to here with people griping about all the politicians and all the leaders and all the folks, and don't get me wrong, they couldn't make a good decision if it stared them in the face but that's what lost people do. Do you know what we need to be concerned about? Your house because I've got news for you, you stand before God one day and it's not going to work to say, "But the President... But Congress... But our elected officials..." Do you know what God may say to you? He may say, "Elected officials, consider yourself grateful, most people don't get to elect their officials." We're so upset about what lost people are doing that the saved people aren't even right with God to begin with.

Maybe tonight, maybe tonight we hear a story about a man baptized in a creek change the whole town around. Maybe tonight that you're that man or that woman. You don't have to have a reputation as that man did. You don't have to have a position or stature or have a place in society that people, "Oh, that's going to change everything," because David cried out as a normal man, "I have sinned. Change me, O God." And when this happens, then Jerusalem will be changed. Then Zion will be changed. Guys, can we stop griping about everybody else's house and can we start getting our house right with God? David gave us the formula, when we get right with God then he leads others to get right with God, and that's what changes Jerusalem, and that's what changes Zion, and that's what brings the hand of God on our life, our community, and our culture. The only thing keeping us from revival is the person in the mirror that you look at every single day in your life.

Tonight I'm going to call the guys back after I pray and we're going to sing the song again. We sang it this morning. It's not a song I like. It's called, "I surrender all." I don't like the song. You say, "Why don't you like the song? It's one of our favorites." Yeah, but have you read the lyrics? It doesn't say some to Jesus, that's which's convenient, I give to him. It says all to Jesus I surrender. All to him I freely give. You do realize that's what David was doing, right? He said, "God, you can have it all." And when God has it all, he does incredible things.

Let's pray with our heads bowed as we prepare for our time of response. Maybe you're that person here today, much like the Jesse character in the song, you've never turned and repented from your sin, you've never asked Jesus Christ to save you. Here's the good news, the good news is the Bible says whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. You say, "Even me?" Yes, even you. You see, the problem is some of you think you're so bad he can't save you, some of you think you're so good you don't need to be saved. The reality of the matter is this: we've all sinned and fallen short of the glory of

God. Whoever you are, whatever stage and age of life, if tonight you say, "If I were to breathe my last breath, I would bust open the doors of hell," then you need to cry out to God to save you by the blood of Jesus Christ. Tonight I implore you just to cry out in your soul tonight, "God save me. I'm a sinner and I believe Jesus is the answer."

But maybe tonight you say, "I'm already a believer. Have been for years." We're about to sing a very dangerous song. You remember that David, before I pray, remember David was in the wrong place, the wrong time, doing the wrong thing. You know what would be a shame tonight is to sing the words, "I surrender all," knowing well you don't mean them. You're just singing the words you've always sung so you can get home and do whatever you want to do. "I surrender all."

Lord Jesus, tonight as we come to this time in our service, Lord, even though the story of David in Psalm 51 is a sad story, disastrous story, it's a wonderful story because it shows us your grace, it shows us your mercy. God, it shows us what you can do with a life that is totally sold out and dependent to you. God help us tonight to sing these words not out of tradition or history or out of rote memory, but to actually mean it, to be willing to say it is more important to be right with you than anything else, it is more important to be in a right standing with you than anything else. God, help us tonight to truly say, "I surrender all." It is in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.