

Flint Hills Bible Church
Biblical Soul Care Sunday School
Biblical Repentance Part 3

I. Review

“Repentance is a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it, and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ. (Systematic Theology, Grudem pg 713)

Objectives:

Today we will examine the terrible saga of David’s great fall and glean instruction in repentance from his life.

II. Helping Counselees understand Repentance

The following is a high altitude observation of David through several key texts to help our counselees to see repentance in the Scriptures. As we read these texts, consider how you could ask questions and listen for the way your counselee understands Biblical repentance.

a. The set up

2 Samuel 11:1-5

Where should David have been at this time of year?

What was David doing on this particular day?

After seeing Bathsheeba, we see that David twice “sent” people. What did he send them to do?

b. The cover up

2 Samuel 11:6-13

What was David’s intention in sending for Uriah?

In verses 14-15, we see the cover up escalated to murder. The order was delivered by the hand of the faithful Uriah.

The final step to David’s coverup comes in verse 27. We see him marry the newly widowed Bathsheeba. Widowed by his own wicked plot.

c. The confrontation: 2 Samuel 12: 1-15

Psalm 51 - Few texts in all of Scripture could be compared to the complete picture of repentance that David penned in the aftermath of his confrontation with Nathan the prophet. As we care for the souls of others we should have Psalm 51 in mind as a go-to text to give us a portrait of repentance.

Psalm 51 (ESV) — TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID, WHEN NATHAN THE PROPHET WENT TO HIM, AFTER HE HAD GONE IN TO BATHSHEBA. **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! **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.

*Perhaps an obvious point to many, we should always point out what David is doing in this Psalm—PRAYING! He is going to the Lord and seeking His intervention. We should never neglect prayer for our counselees and prayer with them! We are all completely dependent on the Holy Spirit working in our own lives and in the lives of those we meet with.

In the first 2 verses, consider David's requests to God. What is he asking the Lord to do?

What does this teach us about a repentant person's self perception?

In verses 3 and 4 David describes his sin. What words does he use?

Who has David offended in his sinful actions?

In verse 4b David writes "so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment." What is David attributing to God?

Summary: in the first 4 verses we have two major concepts to highlight with our counselees: Prayerful dependence of God, and 2, acknowledgement of our need for cleansing. In the next section we will see David's acknowledgment of God's sovereign work in his life.

6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. **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.

What can we emphasize with our counselees about what God desires in our lives from verse 6?

How does this verse confront a desire for secrecy?

David makes a series of desperate requests of God in verses 7-12. What are they, and what do they reveal about David's attitude toward his sin?

In verse 10 David makes a special request that God create in him a clean heart. What does this teach us about our ability to clean ourselves up? Why can this be such a temptation for us when we realize we have sinned?

Summary: Here we must emphasize God's goodness and holiness. He is pure and we are utterly sinful. We need God's cleansing power to rescue us from our sin. In verses 13-17 David reveals his desire for the rest of his life.

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

What does David want to do next as God answers his prayer for cleansing and forgiveness?

What is the content that David wants to teach sinners in verses 15-17?

Verses 16 and 17 are the highlight of this section. How would you summarize these two verses for a counselee?

Once again in verses 18-19 David prays for his people. How is this further evidence of David's repentance?

Is David contradicting himself in verses 16 and 19? Why or why not?

Summary: God gives us a treasure in this beautiful Psalm! As we see a picture of repentance from King David, we can entreat our brothers and sisters in Christ to pursue a heart toward God like he had.

But before concluding our observation of David's repentance, it is important to see that David still had the consequences of his sin to live through. David did not avoid the awful consequences for his sin. Here is a brief description of the results of his sin

- d. The consequences of David's sin
 - i. The death of his son with Bathsheeba 2 Sam 12:15-18
 - ii. Amnon and Tamar 2 Sam 13:1-14
 - iii. Absalom's avenging of Tamar 2 Sam 13:23-29 *note the similarities between David's conspiracy and Absalom's
 - iv. Absalom's banishment 2 Sam 13:34-37
 - v. Absalom's rebellion 2 Sam 15: 1-12
 - vi. Absalom's dishonor 2 Sam 16:15-23
 - vii. Absalom's death 2 Sam 18

What benefit is there in considering these consequences?

What should we take away from this list of David's consequences?

In the Scriptures we see a wonderful picture of God's work in David's life. We receive a warning not to assume we can't fall like David, we receive instruction in what to do when we sin - even in "big" ways. We see God's love for His people and His willingness to forgive and restore. All of these are precious lessons to learn regarding repentance. Next week in our final lesson on this topic we will look at some case studies and consider how to walk someone through the process of repentance!