

## Broken

**Psalm 51:1-19** 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. 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. 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.

**Big Idea:** Repentance is a regular experience for God's people.

### **I. Understanding Repentance**

*Faith and Repentance are Inseparably Linked:*

Faith/repentance are two sides of the same coin

"The two great graces essential to a saint in this life are faith and repentance. These are the two wings by which he flies to heaven. Faith and repentance preserve the spiritual life as heat and radical moisture do the natural." – Thomas Watson

Regeneration provides the power for change, faith/repentance is how we change – it's the evidence of change

*Repentance is a heart change when we are broken by our sin which causes us to confess and turn to God for forgiveness:*

**1 John 1:8-9** If we say 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.

Neil Williams – Eyes open, heart broken, seeing surface sins, seeing heart sins, coming to our senses, absence of excuses, plea for help, weakness, a cry

Mike Wilkerson – conviction, confession, repentance (turning), restitution, reconciliation, rejoicing

**Jeremiah 2:11-13** Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit. 12 Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, 13 for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

**1 Thessalonians 1:9** For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God

**Matthew 5:3-6** Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Our proper response to being corrected - adjusting to truth and coming clean

*Repentance is not Penance:*

"Martin Luther opened the Reformation by nailing —The Ninety-Five Theses to the door of Wittenberg Cathedral. The very first of the theses was: —'Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ...willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.' On the

surface this looks a little bleak! Luther seems to be saying Christians will never be making much progress. But of course that wasn't Luther's point at all. He was saying that repentance is the way we make progress in the Christian life. Indeed, pervasive, all-of-life-repentance is the best sign that we are growing deeply and rapidly into the character of Jesus."

## II. Seeing Repentance – David in Psalm 51 as a Test Case

### *Reasons for Repentance*

**Psalm 51:1-19** 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. 6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

Utter awareness of his 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,  
5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me

Utter God-centeredness:

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

### *Requests for Restoration*

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.

Desire for purification:

7 Purge me with hyssop...  
wash me,  
10 Create in me a clean heart...  
renew a right spirit within me.

Desire for intimacy:

9 Hide your face from my sins  
11 Cast me not away from your presence  
take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Desire for joy:

8 Let me hear joy and gladness  
let the bones that you have broken rejoice  
12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation

### *Results of Forgiveness*

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.

Heart precedes form:

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.

He will be a worshipper:

14 my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

He will be a disciple-maker:

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

*Only the Son of David Can Cleanse Us from an Evil Conscience:*

**Hebrews 10:19-22** Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

The prophetic ministry of Jesus drives us to the priestly ministry of Jesus

### III. Cultivating Repentance

Tending to our hearts means being attentive to our inner cesspool – facing and embracing our depravity

Confession is like flossing our teeth

How do you handle correction? Are you honest about your sin? Do you get defensive? Do you blame-shift? Do you justify yourself? Or are you vulnerable, tender, and willing to be wrong? Can you handle the truth and embrace it, or are you persuaded that everyone else is always wrong? Why? Are the consequences of truth and coming clean so bad that you don't think "honesty is the best policy"?

Where are you with God? Is he a one-day a week phenomenon? Is He an inconvenience? Is he purifying you? Are you regularly intimate with Him? Is He the passion of your life? Are you on "speaking terms" or are you living through mediators? What do you say to Him, what do you ask Him for? What is more important than your relationship with Jesus?

Repenting of specific sins

Repenting of patterns/idols

X-Ray questions – identifying our idols

"Repentance is purgative: fear not the working of this pill. Smite your soul, said Chrysostom, smite it; it will escape death by that stroke. How happy it would be if we were more deeply affection with sin, and our eyes did swim in their orb. We may clearly see the Spirit of God moving in the waters of repentance, which though troubled, are yet pure. Moist tears dry up sin and quench the wrath of God. Repentance is the cherisher of piety, the procurer of mercy." – Thomas Watson