

A Murderer's Prayer



Psalm 51

¹ Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.



Psalm 51

³ For I acknowledge my transgressions,
And my sin is always before me. ⁴ Against
You, You only, have I sinned, and done
this evil in Your sight— that You may be
found just when You speak, and
blameless when You judge.



Psalm 51

⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
And in sin my mother conceived me.

⁶ Behold, You desire truth in the inward
parts, and in the hidden part You will
make me to know wisdom.



Psalm 51

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice.



Psalm 51

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 steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.



Psalm 51

¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors Your
ways, and sinners shall be converted to
You.



Psalm 51

¹⁴ Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise.



Psalm 51

¹⁶ For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart— these, O God, You will not despise.



Psalm 51

¹⁸ Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. ¹⁹ Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering; then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.



A Murderer's Prayer



When did David Fall?

- After success



Luke 12:16-20

¹⁶ Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. ¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’



Luke 12:16-20

¹⁸ So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.'



Luke 12:16-20

¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.””



Luke 12:16-20

²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'



Matthew 19:23,24

²³ Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”



When did David Fall?

- After success
- When he was idle



1Thessalonians 3:10-12

¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. ¹¹ For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.



1Thessalonians 3:10-12

¹² Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.



1Thessalonians 2:9

For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.



1 Timothy 5:13

And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.



When did David Fall?

- After success
- When he was idle



How did David Recover?

- God sent a messenger



2Samuel 12:1-7a

¹ Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him: “There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor. ² The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds.



2Samuel 12:1-7a

³ But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him.



2 Samuel 12:1-7a

⁴ And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him."



2 Samuel 12:1-7a

⁵ So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this shall surely die! ⁶ And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity."



2Samuel 12:1-7a

⁷ Then Nathan said to David,
“You are the man!”



How did David Recover?

- God sent a messenger
- He repented and prayed



Psalm 51 – David's Prayer

- He had an honest heart (vs. 1-9)



Psalm 51:1-9

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Psalm 51:1-9

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Psalm 51:4

Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight— that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.



Sin wrongs everybody, but it shoots its sharpest shaft into the heart of Jesus Christ. All who love you may be wounded by your sin, but the one who is most deeply wounded is the One who loves you best. The sufferings of Jesus Christ were not ended on Calvary. Day by day he is being wounded by those who sin against His love, and every act of wrongdoing is an act of outlawry against God. And every transgression wounds the heart of God. Oh, that we might see it and fall before Him, as David fell, and say, "I have sinned against thee, against the only have I sinned." ~ Clovis G. Chappell

Psalm 51 – David's Prayer

- He had an honest heart (vs. 1-9)
- He desired a willing heart (vs. 10-14)



Psalm 51:10-14

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.



Psalm 51:10-14

¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
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Psalm 51:10-14

¹⁴ Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.



Psalm 51 – David's Prayer

- He had an honest heart (vs. 1-9)
- He desired a willing heart (vs. 10-14)
- God desires a broken heart (vs. 15-19)



Psalm 51:15-19

¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. ¹⁶ For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering.



Psalm 51:15-19

¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart— these, O God, You will not despise.



Psalm 51:15-19

¹⁸ Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. ¹⁹ Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering; then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.



Psalm 51:17

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart— these, O God, You will not despise.

