

Finding Yourself in the Psalms
Psalm 51
Anatomy Of A Confession

“It is a shame we must do other in our prayer than praise and thanks. We must ask for supplication because of our human needs. We must also find necessity to confess because of our human sinfulness.” CH Spurgeon

I. David’s Confession is to GOD.

- A. 51:1 “Have mercy.” Same word as Gen 6:8 “Noah found grace. . .”
- B. “Acc to your great compassion” *God’s mercy exceeds our sin*
- C. “Blot out my transgressions” *wiping a dish so nothing remains* 2 Kings 21:13 *“I will stretch out over Jerusalem the measuring line used against Samaria and the plumb line used against the house of Ahab. I will wipe out Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.”*
Transgression = REBELLION - a breach of a relationship
- D. N.O.I. In many Psalms (petitional psalms) David cries out to God for his intervention. Here when David is suffering for something done wrong, he has no complaint against God.

II. David Hides Nothing From God.

- A. 51:2 “all my iniquity” “crooked dealings. Word associated with guilt as a major consequence.
- B. “From my sin” “Missing the mark. David concerned with the SIN not the PUNISHMENT.
- C. 51:3. Concerned with his sin night and day
- D. 51:4 “Against you, you alone”
- E. 51:4 God is just in judging his sin.
- F. David’s Sinful Status
 - 1. 51:5 “sinful at birth” Not a justification of his actions. David is admitting even more guilt than this one offense. Not only has he SINNED. He is a SINNER.
 - 2. “Brought forth” (NIV “sinful at birth”) is a direct ref to the act of childbirth. We are BORN sinners.
- G. 51:6 God is concerned with the INNER MAN.

What are we at the very core? What would you do if you knew that no one would find out????

III. David’s Request is for CLEANSING

- A. Hyssop - used at passover to sprinkle the blood. Often used in purification ceremonies
- B. He know that acc to the Law, if he is not cleansed, HE WOULD BE CUT OFF
- C. Wants cleansing God’s way
- D. 51:8. “In the same way you caused my ear to hear my own sin (conviction), cause my ear to hear joy again”
 - 1. David has heard condemnation from God, from Nathan, from his own conscience, from the Law. Now he wants to hear a different voice.

- E. 51:9 “Hide your face from my sins”
- F. “All my iniquity” Isaiah 43:25 “I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.”
- G. **51:10 “Create in me. . .”** *Bara - same word as Gen 1:1* “Use your creative powers to give me a fresh start.” “My outward shell exists but inside there is a void that needs to be filled”
- H. “Renew a steadfast spirit.” Renew = to erect, that which is firm, constant, fixed, ie.: “God, keep me from this sin forever. Help me to be steadfast, to live holy.”

IV. David’s Request for Service

- A. 51:11 “Do not cast me from your presence. . .
 1. Ability to minister
 2. HE knew what happened to Saul

V. The Results of Repentance 51:13-19

- A. Deliverance. 51:14
- B. Worship. 51:15
- C. Prosperity. 51:18-19