



DAVID AND BATHSHEBA

Psalms 51:1–19

RELATED SCRIPTURES

2 Samuel 11:1–27 | 2 Samuel 12:1–15 | 1 John 1:9

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 8.18.24

SUMMARY

Though the Lord spoke of David as “a man after his own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14), the narrative of David and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:1–27) more than proves that David is a fallen man—a man infected by sin’s curse. David observed Bathsheba bathing from the roof of his house, sent for her, committed adultery with her, and then proceeded to cover it up by having Uriah, Bathsheba’s husband, killed; Uriah was also a friend of King David’s. With each step, David plummeted deeper into sin. As is often the case with sin, David became blinded by his pursuit of his covetous desires. It took the faithful, rebuking words of Nathan the prophet to awaken David to the gravity of his detestable actions, which displeased the Lord (2 Samuel 11:27). Though David displayed a lack of godly character through the whole incident, his response to Nathan’s rebuke displayed the heart of God—which even David’s horrendous sin could not suffocate. David penned a psalm of repentance (Psalm 51), giving us evidence that the Spirit works in the hearts of his own—even amid our sin. David, through the conviction of the Spirit, pleads for mercy (vs. 1–2), acknowledges his sin (v. 3–5), proclaims his utter dependence upon the Lord (vs. 7–9), implores for help in changing his behavior by way of a renewed heart (vs. 10–15), and finally turns his heart to praise the Lord for his goodness (vs. 16–19). The psalm gives us insight into the Lord’s desire to sanctify his children, that he will even use our sin to incline our hearts toward him—hearts that seek repentance and die to sin and live unto righteousness to the praise of his glorious name. The Lord renews his people!

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Psalm 51:1–19.

What does this psalm teach us about our own hearts? What are we capable of in terms of sinfulness? What does this psalm teach us about the Lord’s mercy?

Repentance requires more than just saying “sorry.” Consider all the elements of David’s psalm of repentance. In what ways does this psalm challenge us to grow in repentance?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.