



Series: Seasons in the Psalms, Reflections on God and the Significance of the Soul

Passage: Psalm 51

Title: God Restores the Broken

Speaker: Pastor David Menard 11/23/2025

Discussion Starter –Can you think of a circumstance or incident when the cover-up was more destructive than the initial sin? What methods do people employ to downplay acts of selfishness, greed, or prejudice? What is the inevitable outcome of persistent self-justification and denial of personal guilt? Is it ever worth it?

Review 2 Samuel 11 and 12

1. What was David's initial sin in this narrative?
2. How many "red flag warnings" over what period of time did David have before he finally admitted his guilt in 2 Sam 12:13?
3. Each red flag warning provided David with an opportunity to either confess and repent or double down on his innocence. Why do you think David failed to confess and repent for so long?
 - a. Why do we often find it difficult to confess our shortcomings to God and those we let down?
4. Describe how Nathan's intervention was subtle, powerful, and effective to bring David to confession? What does this teach us about God's desire and love for David?

Read Psalm 51:1-6

5. Why does David rely upon God's lovingkindness, (hesed), as the basis for requesting forgiveness?
6. Though David's actions significantly and negatively affected many people, who does David say he has offended? Do you agree that God is more offended than Uriah or Bathsheba in this incident? Why?
 - b. In what way are your unjust dealings with others, (ex. losing your temper with a friend), an offense against God? Do you think of your actions in that way?

Read Psalm 51:7-15

7. What requests do you see that David makes to God in these verses, (13 total- starting with purge me)? What are the reasons David seeks God's actions?
 - c. Consider the burden David carried over a year as he continued to hide and justify his mounting bad choices. Can you describe the freedom, joy, cleanliness, and innocence that comes from a conscience that is finally freed from guilt?

Read Psalm 51:16-19

8. Why does David say that God does not desire sacrifice? What does God desire from His people?
 - d. What evidence or behaviors would you expect to see in a heart that is described as broken and contrite? Are these actions seen in your life each day?
9. After stating that God does not delight in sacrifices and burnt offerings, (verse 16), David says God will be pleased with them, (verse 19). What is David teaching us in these two statements?