

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 04 June.....	Psalm 1.....	The Path
2) 11 June.....	Psalm 78.....	The Past
3) 18 June.....	Psalm 23.....	The Shepherd
4) 25 June.....	Psalm 138.....	Our Response
5) 02 July.....	Psalm 84.....	His Presence
6) 09 July.....	Psalm 95.....	The Creator
7) 16 July.....	Psalm 19.....	God Revealed
8) 23 July.....	Psalm 136.....	His Love
9) 30 July.....	Psalm 146.....	His Faithfulness
10) 06 Aug.....	Psalm 51.....	The Confession
11) 13 Aug.....	Psalm 32.....	The Cleansing
12) 20 Aug.....	Psalm 141.....	The Protector
13) 27 Aug.....	Psalm 42.....	The Longing

INTRODUCTION

- Is there anything God will not or cannot forgive?
- Does someone have to seek forgiveness before they are forgiven?
- Psalm 51 is one of 8 penitential psalms (Pss. 6; 28; 32; 38; 51; 102;130; 143)

BACKGROUND 2Samual 11-12

- **King David** opts to stay home from doing his duty – fighting the Ammonites
- **Uriah** is one of King David's top 30 elite soldiers (2Samuel 23:24,39) – a member of the royal bodyguard and a loyal Hittite (whose people were supposed to get annihilated when Israel marched into the Promised Land 400 years earlier)
- **Bathsheba**, Uriah's young military wife, opts to skinny dip in her rooftop Jacuzzi – within sight of the king's palace
- **King David** sees Bathsheba's beauty and lusts for her. He follows his senses instead of God's word (flee fornication) and invites Bathsheba over to his pad
- **Bathsheba** doesn't seem to complain and finds herself pregnant
- **King David**, instead of coming clean and asking forgiveness from God and Uriah, and offering to pay child support, devises a plan to get Uriah to sleep with his wife to cover up their indiscretion. When that failed – because of Uriah's intense loyalty and devotion to his troops, David opts to have Uriah intentionally killed in battle – along with many others

"OH WHAT A TANGLED WEB WE WEAVE, WHEN FIRST WE PRACTICE TO DECEIVE" – SIR WALTER SCOTT

Seven (7) things God abhors (Prov 6:16-19), written by Solomon, King David's son – and David, 'a man after God's own heart' – was guilty of all of them

1. Haughty eyes (Pride – I can do anything I want)
2. A lying tongue (I didn't do it)
3. Hands that shed innocent blood
4. A heart that devises wicked plans
5. Feet that run rapidly to evil
6. A false witness who utters lies
7. And one who spreads strife among brothers

David was guilty of crimes worthy of the death penalty:

- Adultery – Taking his neighbor's wife Deut 22:24
- Murder (Uriah and numerous other servants)..... Deut 19:21

David is an Enigma – a Puzzle

If you or I had as many spouses and concubines as he had, AND we are still not satisfied, so we look to have an affair where we kill our lover's spouse and others, how could we be called "a person after God's own heart"? 1Sam 13:14; Acts 13:22

We wouldn't even be allowed into church much less teach Sunday School, be a Deacon, or be left alone in a room with someone else's wife.

BUT – David's redeemed life shows what a great God we have!
(I still wouldn't leave him alone in a room with my wife)

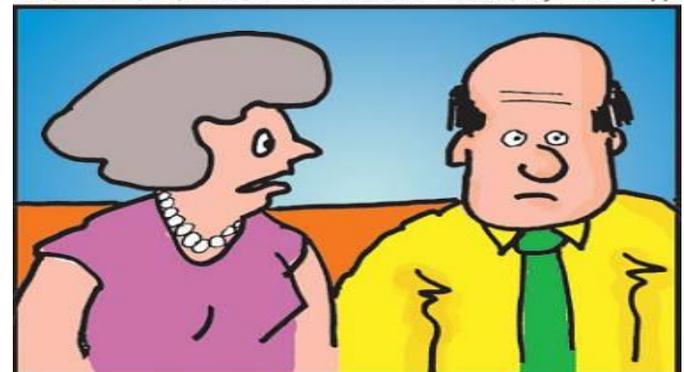
Passage	Comments
51:1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David's honest confession and repentance was key to his restoration. BUT was it a full restoration without consequences? Can we every avoid consequences? • What consequences did David had live with?
51:4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Though David might have forced himself onto Bathsheba & had her husband & others killed – the sin was against God because he broke God's commandments • We may hurt others, but we SIN against God
51:5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v5 – David acknowledged that sin rules • v6 – But it's God's truth in our hearts that is able to break sin's rule over us Psalm 119:11; James 4:7-8 • God has given every human a sense of right & wrong – "the work of the law is written on their hearts" – hence, do we have any excuses? Rom 2:15
51:7-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David did not lose his salvation, but his joy was gone – He was fruitless, useless for the Kingdom • Only God can cleanse and restore – BUT God waits till the sinner honestly and truly repents • v9. "Blot out ALL my iniquities" – Again, does forgiveness of ALL sin blot out ALL consequences? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Is this a motivation not to sin?
51:13-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once anyone is restored to fellowship, then they can be fruitful for the kingdom one more time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Testimonies are again effective to win sinners ♦ God is given proper praise and not pretense • What makes forgiven sinners forsake the church? • How can we entice repentant sinners to return?
51:16-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is able to do His mighty work in our lives when we first humble ourselves – and not when we feign obedience..... Isa 29:13
51:18-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basically this passage is focusing on the BIG picture - 'Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done' • What are our "burnt offerings" today? Rom 12:1

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS

- If people wait till God has to humble them they could waste many years – and the pain will be that much more severe
- To minimize damage, seek God's forgiveness and restoration early
- Don't be like David and wait till God has to act
- God may be merciful and forgiving, but He must protect His holy name from being trampled before unbelievers because of our sins

NEXT WEEK: Psalm 32. God is gracious to forgive the most horrendous sins, but there are always temporal consequences. Yet, we can still rejoice, find hope, and reason to shout for joy!

Church of the Covered Dish by Thom Tapp



"Can you remember way back when sin was a BAD thing?"