

GUILTY BUT PLEAD FOR MERCY

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A Sermon Outline

Presented to

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Memphis, Tennessee

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As a Requirement in

PSALMS AND SONGS OF SOLOMON

Course #324

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By

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November 23, 2022



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Text: Psalm 51:1-19

Thesis: To remind the brethren that God is merciful toward us even when we are guilty.

INTRODUCTION

1. Many songs writers are motivated by the things that happened or are happening in their lives.
2. The songs we know and sing, including the hymns, religious songs, the psalms, and even secular songs have stories behind them.
3. David, the king of Israel wrote many songs in the book of Psalms which were inspired by his life experiences with God and the 51<sup>st</sup> Psalm is not an exception.
4. As the prolong of Psalm 51 has stated, David was confronted and rebuked by Nathan the prophet because of sin of adultery and murder.
5. A careful study of the book of 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel will show three things about David: His Triumph (1-10), His Transgression (11-12), and His Troubles (13-21).
6. In the rebuke of Nathan, David had fornicated with Bathsheba, murdered her husband Uriah, and had married her (2 Sam. 11; 12:9,10).
7. David without objection, pleaded guilty as charged, but ran to God the judge of all men, to plead for mercy and such is the account of Psalm 51.
8. In this lesson, we shall consider four main pleas of David and he appeals for mercy.
  - I. A PLEA FOR FORGIVINESS.
  - II. A PLEA FOR CLEANSING.
  - III. A PLEA FOR DELIVERANCE.
  - IV. A PLEA FOR BLESSINGS.

## DISCUSSION

### I. A PLEA FOR FORGIVENESS (Psa. 51:1-6).

#### A. David accepted his sins and repented.

1. Nathan pointed out to the sins which David thought he had hidden (2 Sam. 12:9).
2. David accepted his sins and confessed that he had sinned against the Lord.
3. He blamed no one but made it personal saying "I have sinned against the Lord" (2 Sam. 12:13).
4. David's confession indicates that no one can turn the sinner's heart toward change but the sinner himself.
5. So should we accept our sins whenever we fall.

#### B. David showed strong remorse and sought God's forgiveness.

1. He expressed his deep need for forgiveness using Hebrew parallelism.
2. First, David cast himself under God's mercy in three ways (Psa. 51:1).
  - a. "Have mercy upon me O God."
  - b. "According to thy lovingkindness."
  - c. "According unto the multitude of thy tender mercies."
3. Second, he described his errors in three ways (Psa. 51:1-3).
  - a. "My transgressions" which indicated his disobedience.
  - b. "Mine iniquities" where he owned his perversion.
  - c. "My sin" which indicated his failure.
4. Third, he sought three things from the Lord (Psa. 51:1-3).
  - a. "Blot out" which was a plea that God erased his transgressions.

- b. “Wash me” thus a plea for the Lord to bath him with water and detergent (cf. John 13:8-11).
    - c. “Cleanse me” which was a call to rinse him from pollution of sin.
  - 5. He acknowledged that his sin was evil before God.
- C. David proclaimed that God is justified if He rendered judgment on him (Psa. 51:4).
- D. David again said his mother was a sinner (Psa. 51:5).
  - 1. He did not say he was born as a sinner as some people teach.
  - 2. Rather, he said the mother who gave birth to him was a sinner.
  - 3. Therefore, the environment in which he was raised or sharpened was not perfect.
- E. The Lord alone could forgive and make him learn wisdom (Psa. 51:6).
- F. We must learn to come before God with repentant heart to plead for forgiveness when we fall without overlooking or covering our sins.**

## II. A PLEA FOR CLEANSING (Psa. 51:7-12).

- A. David pleaded for God to purge him (Psa. 51:7).
  - 1. He pleaded for his guilt to be washed away.
  - 2. To purge means to be set free from the effects of his sins.
  - 3. He pleaded for purging with hyssop.
    - a. Hyssops are plant leaves that have cleansing properties used in purificatory sprinkling rites.
    - b. The Lord commanded Moses and the priest to use hyssop in their sacrificial works (Exo. 12:22; Lev. 14:6).

4. He wanted to be clean and whiter than the snow.

B. He pleaded not only for forgiveness, but also erasing to put away his sin.

1. Nathan told David; “the Lord also has put away your sin” (2 Sam. 12:13).

2. The phrase "put away" is similar to other terms suggesting a complete forgiveness of sin: "covered", blotted out", "remembered no more" (Jer. 31:34).

3. The remission of David’s sin was not as a result of some sacrifices he offered but by the grace of God.

4. Grace was administered to David who was in this case guilty as a murderer and adulterous.

5. Instead of death penalty for taking another man’s wife as stated in the law, David was spared (Lev. 20:10).

6. Yet he wanted more than being spared, but also to be cleansed thorough.

C. He requested for a new clean heart and a new beginning.

1. David appealed to God to make a new heart in him (Psa. 51:10).

2. He pleaded for a renewal of spirit because man is incapable of creating or cleaning his own heart.

3. He did not want God to cast him away like darkness disappear in the presence of light.

4. David a new and continual relationship with God.

5. He cried for a restoration of the joy that comes from the knowledge of having God’s salvation.

6. He appealed to God according to God’s generosity so that he could be in fellowship with God.

**D. When we fall as Christians, there is only one way to be cleansed, and that is to confess for God to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).**

III. A PLEA FOR DELIVERANCE (Psa. 51:13-17).

A. David pleaded for deliverance that he may share the teachings of God.

1. If he is cleansed, then he could teach God's word to others.
2. We have a duty base on God's mercy to share the good news.
3. If David was still in blood guiltiness, he would not be able to teach others about God and we wouldn't have appreciated God's mercies for him.
4. Therefore, David called for deliverance from blood guiltiness that he could boldly promulgate God's mercies (Psa. 51:14).
5. A teacher can have confidence to open his mouth and to teach but he will be hypocrite if he is still guilty of the things he teaches, hence the call of David (Psa. 51:15).
6. A person who is guilty of transgression mostly goes dumb when convicted; an example is the man Jesus described in the parable of the wedding feast (Mat. 22:10-13).
7. David wanted to praise the Lord without doubting God's acceptance of his praises.

B. God's deliverance does not come because of what we sacrifice but a broken heart.

1. David understood that God's deliverance could not be bought with many sacrifices (Psa. 51:16).
2. David was saying, "God I want to get back in the game, but you do not delight in sacrifices."

3. God desires a repented heart and a broken spirit (Psa. 51:17).
  4. God want men to rend their hearts and not their cloth (Joel 2:12-13).
  5. David was forgiven and delivered from the hands of his enemies not because he sacrificed to God but because he repented.
- C. The people of Nineveh rend their hearts, fasted, and prayed for deliverance from sin and God was gracious and merciful unto them (Jonah 3:1-10; 4:1-3).
- D. God is ever ready to accept us and deliver us from all guiltiness of sins if we would go before His throne of mercy (Heb. 4:14-16).**

#### IV. A PLEA FOR BLESSINGS (Psa. 51:18-19).

- A. David pleaded for physical blessings for the people.
1. He was the king, and the people look up to him.
  2. If God was to be angry with the king, punishment will come not only on the but also on the people.
  3. David pleaded to God to do good to Israel and protect their cities.
  4. He understood that if the Lord does not protect them their military can do nothing, and their walls would be nothing (Psa. 127:1-2).
  5. David prayed for God to delight in blessing the people (Psa. 51:18).
  6. We must plead for blessings for some people, nations, and families.
- B. We must plead for spiritual blessings for people.
1. David prayed that God blesses the people and accept their sacrifices.
  2. Spiritual blessing begins with having a relationship with God and acceptable worship.



3. Christians are living stones that offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God (1 Pet. 2:5).
4. This blessings we enjoy in the Lord may have been a prayer and plea by someone we may never know, who prayed for and preached to us.
5. We must pray for and teach this blessings to our families and the church.

**C. There is nothing heartwarming and lovely than to know that we have been blessed with every spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3-7).**

## CONCLUSION

1. David, the man after God's heart was guilty of sins he could not undo.
  - a. He couldn't undo the adultery he had committed with Bathsheba.
  - b. He couldn't bring Uriah he caused to be murdered back from the dead.
  - c. He couldn't bring his son back from the dead.
  - d. He couldn't change anything in his past.
  - e. He couldn't do anything in the future to make up for it.
2. But he could approach God, the Father of all mercies and plead for mercy.
3. We have studied in this lesson what David did and wrote in this Psalm.
  - a. He pleaded for forgiveness.
  - b. He pleaded for cleansing.
  - c. He pleaded for deliverance.
  - d. He pleaded for blessings.
4. We are never so far or so bad to be saved by Christ, and so, what we must do to be saved by God is to admit when we are guilty and plead for His grace.
5. God is gracious and merciful, come boldly unto Him and we shall find mercy (Heb. 4:16).