

House Cleaning

- *Psalm 51:1-12*

- **How many of you enjoy cleaning your house? There are some people who enjoy cleaning their houses and then there are some who despise doing it.**
- **There are also different degrees of cleaning that take place when you clean your house.**
 - You ask your kids to clean their room, there's no telling what you might get.
 - Sometimes you just pick-up.
 - Other times you may take the trash out or even dust the furniture.
 - Then you may go a little deeper by sweeping the floors and mopping them.
 - If you want a good cleaning you may pull out the sponges and wipe down the walls and baseboards.
- **There are also different reasons we have for cleaning our houses. Often times our reason for Cleaning House will dictate what degree of cleaning you do.**
 - Sometimes we do it just to make the place look better, or b/c we are having company over.
 - There are times where we clean up after an illness or sickness to keep it from spreading.
 - But then there are times we clean because we have a mess to clean up.
 - When David wrote this Psalm, he was very upset with his dirty house, not the one he physically lived in, but the one that lived within him.
 - Throughout the Old Testament, David is portrayed as a Godly man and a man who feared God and desired more than anything to prove God & His power, and he was.
 - He was a man who was confident in God and placed his entire trust in God throughout his life.
 - And David was a man who often times would find himself singing of the goodness and faithfulness of God in his own life.
 - But then there are times, such as find here in Psalm 51, where David had sinned against God and is completely miserable with his life.
 - One of the amazing things about Satan is that he never plays fair in the Christian's life.
 - The devil will tempt us to sin, and he will say, "It's all right. You can get away with it." But that's what he does, he's the great tempter.
 - And then after you sin, he becomes the accuser. And he says, "You'll never get away with it."
 - And what he wants to do is to get you off balance, get you out of the will of God, and bring discouragement to you, and make you feel that you can never, ever again come back.
 - Let me say this, if you are a Christian and are living your life for God, when you sin (and we all will from time to time), it should make you miserable in your life; and if it doesn't, there is a problem. But don't feel it's too late to come back.
- **What I want us to look at tonight is the steps that David took to restore his relationship with God. Though David failed miserably in his sin with Bathsheba & the choices he made following his affair with the assassination of her husband, when David got down to business with God, he went all in.**

- As we read the story of David and his sins, we see that he confessed his sins to God and we say, “That’s great, that’s what he should have done and then everything was OK.”
 - Many times that is where we stop in our repentance to God which is the very reason we find ourselves struggling with sin.
 - David was a broken man because of his sin.
 - It absolutely devastated him to know that he had disappointed God.
 - Was he upset about the punishment, sure he was.
 - Was he upset with himself at the mess he had made, we see in scripture that he was.
 - But more than anything, I believe it broke his heart that he allowed sin to take the place of God in his life, if only for a brief time.
 - Let me ask you tonight, when you sin, does it break your heart?
 - Are you upset just because of the consequences you must face?
 - Are you upset just because people know about your sins?
 - Or are you upset because you have failed Almighty God?
 - Many times that question can be answered in how we ask for forgiveness.
 - “I’m sorry if I upset you, will you forgive me?”
 - “I’ll pay for the damages, just forgive me?”
 - “I’m so embarrassed.”

➤ **Though David desired forgiveness, he didn’t just stop at that, and neither should we. What David ask of God in the following verses shows the depth of David’s repentance as he ask God not just to forgive his sins, but to cleanse EVERY PART of his life, including HIS HEART!**

1. Cleanse Me! (v.7)

a. Forgive Me Of My Sins

- i. Obviously David desired for God to forgive him of the wrong that he had done.
- ii. He could not live with the guilt, he could not live with the separation that he had caused through his sin and he pleaded with God to forgive Him of his sins.
 1. This is a major difference b/w a child of the devil and a child of God.
 2. The child of the devil sins, and it does not bother him at all.
 3. A child of God sins & he/she is brought to their knees.
- iii. This is one of the first steps to repentance is recognizing our sin and our need of forgiveness.
 1. There is one thing that God will not accept for sin, and that is excuses.

b. Clean Me Up

- i. David understood that there was a reason he had sin in his life. There were some things in his life that had brought him to this point.
- ii. He didn’t just wake up one morning and decide to have an affair and commit murder. Apparently he was struggling with some things that he never confessed to God. Because of this struggle, there were some things that had begun to take place in his life:
 1. Lack of closeness to God.
 2. More dependence on himself than God.

3. Ego/Pride

- iii. David here is not just pleading with God to forgive him of his transgressions, but to clean up his life of ANYTHING that would stand between him and God.

2. Let Me Hear Your Voice! (v.8)

a. He Had Lost His Fellowship With God

- i. As Christians, one of the things that we should cherish most is our fellowship with God, and when we are not serving Him, it is the very thing we should miss the most.
 - 1. The Old Testament Christians did not have the same opportunity that we have in that they had to go to a High Priest or to the temple to pray to God.
 - 2. But thanks to the blood of Jesus Christ, we can have fellowship with a Holy God and speak straight to Him on any needs that concern us.
- ii. But in this passage, David has lost that closeness because of his sin and he longs to hear God's voice once again in his life.

b. He Had Lost His Tenderness To Sin

- i. One of the things that I have often times warned our teenagers as well as our adults is be careful when you began to lose your tenderness towards sin.
 - 1. When you begin to think;
 - a. I can handle it.
 - b. It's not a big deal.
 - c. One little sin isn't going to hurt me.
 - d. People do a lot worse than what I have done.
 - 2. When you get to that point in your life, your conscious has begun the process of being "seared" and your relationship with God will suffer.
- ii. David had been playing with some sinful emotions and thoughts and eventually it led him to commit adultery with a married woman.
 - 1. How could this happen to a man that loved God?
 - 2. He allowed sin in his heart that went unchecked and unforgiven and it was given the opportunity to grow.

3. Take Away My Sins! (v.9)

a. He Was Hiding In Shame

- i. David was completely ashamed of the wrong that he had done. Would it had been that David would have thought about this shame a little earlier; perhaps he would not have created the mess he had.
- ii. It is understandable to have shame in our life over sin, but never let that shame stand in the way of you coming to repentance.

b. He Needed God To Take His Sins Away

- i. As deep as David was in sin, he still knew that no High Priest or no Prophet could help him out and take away his sins.
- ii. If he was going to be forgiven, he knew only God could forgive what he had done.

4. Change My Heart! (v.10)

a. Create A New Heart

- i. *Bara*: create absolutely, supernaturally; to make something out of nothing.
- ii. This is the same word that was used in Genesis 1:1 when God created this world from nothing.

- iii. David here is not asking for God to wipe the dirt off of his heart or just dust it off. He realizes that his heart has been contaminated and he is pleading with God to COMPLETELY change his heart, even create and give him a new heart.
 - 1. He knew that he would fall again if God did not do something supernatural.
 - 2. He didn't just want to be forgiven this time; he didn't EVER want to have to deal with sin again!

b. Create A New Desire

- i. David didn't want to crave the sins of this world or fall short of God's plan for his life ever again.
- ii. He could see the damage that he had done not just to his life, but to the lives of his family and so in order to keep that from happening again David cries out for a new nature.
 - 1. David did not just want restoration, he wanted regeneration.

5. Keep Me In Thy Presence (v.11)

a. Presence Of God

- i. One of the things that had kept David living for God all of his life was the joy of having the presence of God in his life.
 - 1. To be able to talk to Him.
 - 2. To use his talents for Him.
 - 3. To live for Him and to prove Him to others.
 - 4. To rely on His strength.
- ii. David knew that if God was not a part of his life, his life would NEVER be the same, so he pleads with God not to leave him.

b. Presence Of The Holy Spirit

- i. David did not want to lose the presence of the Holy Spirit in his life.
 - 1. God had given David the Holy Spirit when Samuel anointed David as a small boy to be the next King and David didn't want to lose this blessing.
 - 2. David had seen the Spirit of God taken away from Saul (I Sam. 16:1, 14), he had seen Saul become the tormented victim of an evil spirit and David was afraid this might happen to him.
 - 3. And as fearful as he was that this might happen, he also knew that the only One that could prevent it from happening was God.
- ii. We are told in John 14:15-18 that the Spirit abides with us forever.
 - 1. John 14:16-18 – “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”
- iii. BUT, we can lose our ministry and our effectiveness by:
 - 1. Lying to Him (Acts 5:1-3)
 - 2. Deliberate Disobedience (I Thess. 5:19)
 - 3. Grieving The Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30-32)

6. Give Me Back My Joy (v.12a)

a. Only TRUE Joy Can Be Found In God

- i. Why do you think a lot of Christians struggle with depression today? Not all, but a lot of depression that we struggle with in our lives is because of sin.
 - 1. It might be open sin we have committed.
 - 2. It might be sin that we have struggled to cover up for years.
 - 3. It might be sin of anger or resentment.
 - 4. Sin causes depression in our lives and the only way to restore the joy of our salvation is to confess that sin to God.

b. David Lost The Joy Of His Salvation

- i. Now I know that this is one of those areas that I harp on a lot, but a lot of Christians are some of the most negative and depressing people to be around.
- ii. Some of you forgot that through salvation we have been released from the bondage of our sins, we are not still chained to them so CHEER UP AND BE HAPPY!
 - 1. If I was lost and some of you came and invited me to church, I would be afraid to go too.
 - 2. You aren't ever happy, your attitude changes with the wind, you never have anything good to say about anyone and then you want others people to come join you? Forget it, it wont happen!
- iii. Because of sin in David's life, his joy was taken away. He desired to be forgiven and to have the joy of his salvation restored.

7. Keep Me From Sin (v.12b)

a. Keep Sin Away

- i. One of the things that I like about David is his transparency. You see what you get when it comes to David.
 - 1. He might be singing about the goodness of God one moment in his life and letting everyone know it.
 - 2. But then when has done wrong, he is honest enough to confess it before God.
- ii. David didn't just want to be forgiven, he never wanted to have to go through anything like this again.
 - 1. So instead of just asking God to forgive him, he prayed that God would keep him from sin.
 - 2. Does this sound familiar? It should. This is the very way our Lord teaches us to pray found in the Gospels.
 - a. Matthew 6:13 – “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”

b. Make My Life Victorious

- i. Sin had defeated David, but he wasn't ready to give in.
 - 1. He wanted to be victorious
 - 2. He wanted to be used of God
 - 3. He wanted to prove God to others
- ii. But if this was going to happen, he knew that sin would NEVER make him victorious, and neither will it make you and I.
 - 1. Sin has never led ANYONE to a better life, it always destroys them sooner or later.

2. Sin is NEVER an easy life to live because it is always filled with regret and guilt.

iii. But a life committed to God can experience joy and peace that can only come through the blood of Jesus Christ.

➤ **What David desired was a thorough cleansing in his life. Not just to get forgiveness, but to change his life so that he might not go through the pain of sin again.**