

An Awakening in the American Church (part 11)
King David's Example of Repentance
9.8.2019

Review

We are in a time of important preparation just before the return of Christ.

Now is the time to consecrate to God. If you have any plans to get close to Jesus, now is the time before some huge changes arrive!

The MOST important commodity you need in the future will be your faith!

Over the past 3 months, I've been addressing issues we face as Christians in America. I've been addressing the compromises that are keeping the church in America asleep while our nation is going into a moral freefall and quickly approaching a time of serious judgment.

Last week I begin to talk about the solution to our problems in America, and how we can open ourselves personally to amazing change!

The last two Sundays I ministered, I have talked about the importance of repentance in your walk with God.

Repentance sets the stage for a new life!

Regardless of where you have been or what you have been doing, you can change the direction of your life through repentance.

Repentance is like a coin with two sides:
On one side there is acknowledgment of wrong, and on the other side there is an embracing of faith in Jesus to change you.

Here are some signs of the need to repent:

1. Lack of joy
2. Lack of personal peace
3. Lukewarm attitude towards spiritual things
4. Living with known sin in your life
5. No concern for those without Christ
6. A short temper, on edge and hard to live with
7. A sense of emptiness
8. Calloused general attitude towards others

Today - David's Example of Repentance

David's personal fall

2 Samuel 11 and 12 record the story of King David's sin, and the exposure of his sin by Nathan the prophet.

2 Samuel 11:1 - 12:12 (NLT)

David's Sin

(1) In the spring of the year, when kings normally go out to war, David sent Joab and the Israelite army to fight the Ammonites. They destroyed the Ammonite army and laid siege to the city of Rabbah. However, David stayed behind in Jerusalem. (2) Late one afternoon, after his midday rest, David got out of bed and was walking on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of unusual beauty taking a bath. (3) He sent someone to find out who she was, and he was told, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." (4) Then David sent messengers to get her; and when she came to the palace, he slept with her. She had just completed the purification rites after having her menstrual period. Then she returned home. (5) Later, when Bathsheba discovered that she was pregnant, she sent David a message, saying, "I'm pregnant." (6) Then David sent word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." So Joab sent him to David. (7) When Uriah arrived, David asked him how Joab and the army were getting along and how the war was progressing. (8) Then he told Uriah, "Go on home and relax." David even sent a gift to Uriah after he had left the palace. (9) But Uriah didn't go home. He slept

that night at the palace entrance with the king's palace guard. (10) When David heard that Uriah had not gone home, he summoned him and asked, "What's the matter? Why didn't you go home last night after being away for so long?" (11) Uriah replied, "The Ark and the armies of Israel and Judah are living in tents, and Joab and my master's men are camping in the open fields. How could I go home to wine and dine and sleep with my wife? I swear that I would never do such a thing." (12) "Well, stay here today," David told him, "and tomorrow you may return to the army." So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day and the next. (13) Then David invited him to dinner and got him drunk. But even then he couldn't get Uriah to go home to his wife. Again he slept at the palace entrance with the king's palace guard.

David Arranges for Uriah's Death

(14) So the next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and gave it to Uriah to deliver. (15) The letter instructed Joab, "Station Uriah on the front lines where the battle is fiercest. Then pull back so that he will be killed." (16) So Joab assigned Uriah to a spot close to the city wall where he knew the enemy's strongest men were fighting. (17) And when the enemy soldiers came out of the city to fight, Uriah the Hittite was killed along with several other Israelite soldiers. (18) Then Joab sent a battle report to David. (19) He told his messenger, "Report all the news of the battle to the king. (20) But he might get angry and ask, 'Why did the troops go so close to the city? Didn't they know there would be shooting from the walls? (21) Wasn't Abimelech son of Gideon killed at Thebez by a woman who threw a millstone down on him from the wall? Why would you get so close to the wall?' Then tell him, 'Uriah the Hittite was killed, too.'" (22) So the messenger went to Jerusalem and gave a complete report to David. (23) "The enemy came out against us in the open fields," he said. "And as we chased them back to the city gate, (24) the archers on the wall shot arrows at us. Some of the king's men were killed, including Uriah the Hittite." (25) "Well, tell Joab not to be discouraged," David said. "The sword devours this one today and that one tomorrow! Fight harder next time, and conquer the city!" (26) When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. (27) When the period of mourning was over, David sent for her and brought her to the palace, and she became one of his wives. Then she gave birth to a son. But the Lord was displeased with what David had done.

Nathan Rebukes David

2 Samuel 12:1-12

So the Lord sent Nathan the prophet to tell David this story: "There were two men in a certain town. One was rich, and one was poor. (2) The rich man owned a great many sheep and cattle. (3) The poor man owned nothing but one little lamb he had bought. He raised that little lamb, and it grew up with his children. It ate from the man's own plate and drank from his cup. He cuddled it in his arms like a baby daughter. (4) One day a guest arrived at the home of the rich man. But instead of killing an animal from his own flock or herd, he took the poor man's lamb and killed it and prepared it for his guest." (5) David was furious. "As surely as the Lord lives," he vowed, "any man who would do such a thing deserves to die! (6) He must repay four lambs to the poor man for the one he stole and for having no pity." (7) Then Nathan said to David, "You are that man! The Lord, the God of Israel, says: I anointed you king of Israel and saved you from the power of Saul. (8) I gave you your master's house and his wives and the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. And if that had not been enough, I would have given you much, much more. (9) Why, then, have you despised the word of the Lord and done this horrible deed? For you have murdered Uriah the Hittite with the sword of the Ammonites and stolen his wife. (10) From this time on, your family will live by the sword because you have despised me by taking Uriah's wife to be your own. (11) "This is what the Lord says: Because of what you have done, I will cause your own household to rebel against you. I will give your wives to another man before your very eyes, and he will go to bed with them in public view. (12) You did it secretly, but I will make this happen to you openly in the sight of all Israel."

Psalm 51 is David's Prayer of Repentance

After Nathan the prophet exposed David's sin, he repented for what he had done.

I have used this prayer over the years as a model for those who need to get themselves back on track with God.

We can learn 7 things about our own repentance from what David did as he repented:

Psalms 51 (NLT)

1. Ask and expect God to pour out His mercy on you.

(1) Have mercy on me, O God,
because of your unfailing love.
Because of your great compassion,
blot out the stain of my sins.
(2) Wash me clean from my guilt.
Purify me from my sin.

2. Own what you have done.

(3) For I recognize my rebellion;
it haunts me day and night.

3. Admit that you have offended God with what you have done.

(4) Against you, and you alone, have I sinned;
I have done what is evil in your sight.

4. Admit that God is not at fault for what you have done.

(4b) You will be proved right in what you say,
and your judgment against me is just.

5. Admit that you are not right without God's help.

(5) For I was born a sinner—
yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.

(6) But you desire honesty from the womb,
teaching me wisdom even there.

6. Ask God to forgive and cleanse your sin.

(7) Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

7. Ask God to restore your joy.

(8) Oh, give me back my joy again;
you have broken me—
now let me rejoice.

(9) Don't keep looking at my sins.
Remove the stain of my guilt.

8. Ask God to place in you a desire to do what is right.

(10) Create in me a clean heart, O God.
Renew a loyal spirit within me.

(11) Do not banish me from your presence,
and don't take your Holy Spirit from me.

9. Commit to leaving your sin and living right.

(12) Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and make me willing to obey you.

(13) Then I will teach your ways to rebels,
and they will return to you.

(14) Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves;
then I will joyfully sing of your forgiveness.

(15) Unseal my lips, O Lord,
that my mouth may praise you.

10. Humble yourself before the Lord.

(16) You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one.
You do not want a burnt offering.

(17) The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit.
You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.

(18) Look with favor on Zion and help her;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

(19) Then you will be pleased with sacrifices offered in the right spirit—
with burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings.
Then bulls will again be sacrificed on your altar.

Whenever you sin, go to this prayer as a guide to true repentance.

Even after his deep sin, David became a man after God's own heart. God delights in those who are totally honest with Him about who they are and what they have done.

Mercy and grace are available to the humble!

Action Points:

1. Get alone, humble yourself, and confess to God things you know offend Him.
2. Use Psalm 51 as a pattern for changing your behavior.
3. Ask God to give you a desire to live differently.
4. Follow through with daily worship, prayer, and fellowship with God in the word.