

Series Title: Awake My Soul

Sermon Title: Week 6: The gift of repentance

Date: 09-01-19

- **TODAY, continuing in Psalms.. Psalm 51**
- **This psalm shines light on one of most essential concepts in scripture- central to having relationship with God, and at heart of gospel. ALSO concept we don't talk about much anymore, and when we do, it's often misunderstood... the essential matter of...**

✠ The matter of Repentance

- **Why avoid?? Because this concept brings front and center the reality that Jesus didn't just come to forgive us and take us to heaven when we die, but to CHANGE OUR LIVES, NOW. To make us new people spiritually, so that we can transform our SOUL- how we feel, act, and THINK.**
- **Matthew, Mark, Luke, Acts... all introduce Gospel with the call to Repentance. In Matthew...**

Matthew 4:16-17 *the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.* ¹⁷ *From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."*

- **SO, just what does it mean to REPENT?**
- **We think- "change of direction"... sinning, stop sinning, start doing good. This will be a product of repentance, but in both OT and NT, true repentance is something much deeper involving our relationship with God, and it isn't just an act, but a perspective.**
- **YOU SEE, Repentance isn't just change in behavior, it is a change in how we THINK. How we see ourselves in relationship to God.**
- **ESSENCE: Repentance is a change from a life achieved by SELF to a life received from GOD.**
- **OF COURSE! Who wouldn't do that? None of us in our human nature, because repentance requires we lay down the most cherished aspect of our human nature... OUR PRIDE. Defenses.**
- **Even though we think of repentance as a NT concept, perhaps the most powerful picture in all of scripture is found in the OT- In psalm 51.**

✠ Psalm 51: Setting the stage

For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

- **Director of music- temple worship, sung**
- **OF DAVID. 1000 BC. David second king of Israel- at it's height. Lots of famous stories of David, many regarding his triumphs (Goliath). But the most famous is about his greatest failure.**
- **Adultery/Bathsheba... not only that: Guilty of lust, theft, deceit, adultery, murder.**
- **We would think story is about judgement. It's not. David suffered consequences, but we know this story because it's really about God's mercy, forgiveness, and redemption.**
- **FOR THIS TO HAPPEN in Davids life, critical step. David came to the end of himself, and deep in his soul, he REPENTED. HERE is Psalm 51 we see powerful picture of what repentance looks like.**
- **ESSENTIAL PERSPECTIVE! NC! What David was praying for was fully answered in CHRIST, thru CROSS/ DBR. While Psalm 51 has much to teach us, we see it/ pray it, from a new perspective**

Psalm 51:1-2

¹ Have mercy on me, O God | according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion | blot out my transgressions.

² Wash away all my iniquity | and cleanse me from my sin.

✠ In a place of deep repentance, we will recognize our need for **MERCY**

- **Blot out/ wash/ cleanse... David isn't just asking for forgiveness- he recognizes that he needs to change, he needs to be cleaned, on a deep level.**
- **For God to have Mercy isn't just to turn his head away from David, but to set him free from his guilt, shame, and more importantly, the underlying problems of pride, selfishness**

Lens of the N.C.: In Christ, we have received mercy!

1 Peter 2:9-10 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, **God's special possession**, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- **Mercy of salvation/ forgiveness... AND ongoing mercy, God is with us, patient, leading us...**
- **OUR response: humble, worship, love, mercy to others... TO RECOGNIZE GOD'S MERCY leads to...**

✠ In a place of deep repentance, we will recognize the totality of our **SIN**

Psalm 51:3-6

³ For I know my transgressions | and my sin is always before me.

⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;

- **David isn't holding anything back. He is laying it all down, fully surrendered, fully owning his sin.**
- **Ultimately, his sin is against God. Nothing we can hold back from God, he SEES. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO WORSHIP GOD, and yet be 'hurting' people. To sin against (angry, bitter, lie) is to sin against God, because to LOVE PEOPLE is to love god!**
- **Logical conclusion... you are just to judge me!**

so you are right in your verdict | and justified when you judge.

⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

- **NT, "Depravity"... As long as I have existed. DEEP issue, only God can deal with.**
- **TRANSLATION ISSUE Nasb...**

^{6(NASB)} Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being,
And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.

- **God desires healing, confession, deepest part of who we are.**

Lens of the N.C.: Romans 3:9 AGREE! Reality before Christ

What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin.

- **THIS IS WHERE DAVID WAS, inseparable next step**

✠ In a place of deep repentance, we will recognize our need for **FORGIVENESS**

Psalm 51:7-9

⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;

let the bones you have crushed rejoice. **Consequences- just**

⁹ Hide your face from my sins | and blot out all my iniquity.

- **Powerful picture... Hyssop- plant used to sprinkle sacrificial blood on the alter. CLEAN ME AS CAN ONLY BE DONE THROUGH SACRIFICE... David couldn't have put words to it- I'm stretching just a bit- but sense of 'LORD, I have to DIE, I need to be reborn... only you can do this, make me pure!**

Lens of the N.C.: In Christ, we are forgiven! THROUGH CROSS

Colossians 2:13-14 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴ having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

- **FRIENDS! Do we see! In Christ, do we still sin? OF COURSE.. and yet, now, we don't have to beg for forgiveness, but rather come before God, fully, honestly, laying it all down, confession, TO KNEES IN GRATITUDE THAT WE ARE FORGIVEN.**

✠ In a place of deep repentance, we will recognize that being forgiven isn't enough. What we most need is a **NEW LIFE**

Psalm 51:10-12

¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, **(something new- something he can't do himself)**
and renew a steadfast spirit within me. **(ability to stand firm)**

¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me. **(God alone is his hope)**

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. **(spirit that desires to obey)**

Lens of the N.C.: In Christ, we are a new creation!

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

- **Steadfast spirit- 'walk by the spirit, not flesh...'**
- **His presence... we are in UNION.. he is in us, with us**
- **Restore joy... fruit of the spirit is.. Love, JOY**

✠ Reality! A repentant and restored heart will not keep **SILENT**

Psalm 51:13-15

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you. **(power of testimony)**

¹⁴ Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

¹⁵ Open my lips, Lord | and my mouth will declare your praise.

- **THINK! Heart of worship because we recognize what God has done for us? Do we take it for granted?**

Lens of the N.C.: The Holy Spirit through us will not be silent!

Ephesians 5:18-20 ...be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Chan: When we open our mouth, God comes out, because we are filled with him.**

BRINGS US TO FAMOUS STATEMENT... Davids world view was forgiveness came through sacrifice

✠ The sacrifice of repentance

Psalm 51:16-17

¹⁶ You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

¹⁷ My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

- **David recognizes that just a ritualistic penance would do nothing. GOD IS AFTER OUR HEART.**
- **Broken spirit... come to the end of ourself... stop pretending, making deals with God, holding back**

Lens of the N.C.:

- **Jesus asked “what is most important law”... Love lord your god with all of who you are/ Neighbor as yourself. RESPONSE OF THE QUESTIONER....**

Mark 12:28-34 ³² “Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. ³³ To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴ ...Jesus saw that he had answered wisely...

- **We can't buy our way out of sin problem- guilt/shame**
- **We can't perform our way out... “just get better”... “Just stop being depressed”.. it doesn't work...**
- **GOD'S CALL TO REPENTANCE isn't call to just say “God you are god, I'm bad, Ill try harder...” NO! Repentance is to turn from trying to make LIFE WORK on our own, and to turn to GOD, to LOVE HIM, enter into relationship with him, follow HIM...**
- **This leads to conclusion... almost seems out of place, some interpreters think it was added later. But here we see David's heart turn from just himself to his people...**

Psalm 51:18-19

¹⁸ May it please you to prosper Zion,
to build up the walls of Jerusalem.

- **LORD, protect and prosper your people... LORD, BRING US TO A PLACE OF HEALTH, OBEDIENCE, WHERE WE ARE STRONG, CONTENT, BECAUSE WE KNOW YOU, TRUSTING IN YOU, YIELDED TO YOU**

¹⁹ Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous,
in burnt offerings offered whole;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

- **“Sacrifices of the righteous” Sacrifices will be a reflection of change you have made it us**

✠ The goal of repentance: **NOT JUST CHANGE OF BEHAVIOR, BUT** a renewed and transformed MIND.

Lens of the N.C.:

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

- **Repentance... “pattern of this world”.... BE TRANSFORMED (TURN) letting God change the way we think, how we feel, who we are, how we choose, how we live**

- **RELIGION/human thinking tends to put emphasis on what we are turning away from. BIBLICAL REPENTANCE is all about who we are TURNING TO.**
 - **In your marriage... TURNING TO**
 - **In your thought life...**
 - **Caught in unhealthy behavior... TURNING TO**
 - **HEART YEARNS FOR JOY OF GOD... TURN TO!!**