A Cry for Pardon – Psalm 51

1. Introduction
   1. David was “a man after God’s own heart.” What does that look like? How did he achieve such a title?
      1. What we find in David’s **sin** with Bathsheba is that it is not unique to the human condition. But what is most unusual is his **repentance**.
      2. “Jesus’ ancestors were fornicators and adulterers. Therefore, we should not look at sexual sin with such a critical eye.”
         1. It isn’t us that puts the critical eye on it but God!
         2. ALL of those in the lineage of Christ were sinners!
   2. What David does here is also unusual because it is not in our nature to fall into this pattern of repentance. This is how repentance ought to look.
2. His Thought of Sin
   1. It weighs heavy.
      1. Notice the repetition of how he talks of sin.
      2. Vs. 3-4 > “It’s ok! It’s not that bad!” – Don’t do that with your own sin or other’s sin. Don’t sugarcoat it. When we sin, we are separated from God!
   2. He takes total responsibility.
      1. Vs. 5 > David is overwhelmed with the weight of his sin to the point that it feels like he’s been this way since birth.
      2. Vs. 4 > “You are just and right in your actions, God.”
      3. As humans, we have a need to be justified that the mistakes we’ve made aren’t so bad.
         1. Take the example of how a child views their “mistakes.”
   3. He describes the nature of sin (vs. 1,2)
      1. Transgression/Trespassing (1 Jn. 3:4; 1 Sm. 24:11)
      2. Iniquity/Twisting (Ezek. 16:49)
      3. Sin (Jdg. 20:16; 1 Kgs. 1:21; Rm. 3:23)
3. … Of Forgiveness
   1. Blot out my transgressions (Ex. 32:32-33; Is. 25:8; Acts 3:19; Rev. 21:4)
      1. Literally means to “wipe away/erase/exterminate”
   2. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity (Leviticus; Mal. 3:2)
      1. Ex: Scrubbing on the washboard or being “put through the wringer”
         1. Getting rid of sin is not a gentle and pleasant process.
   3. Cleanse me from my sin (Leviticus; 2 Kgs. 5:10)
      1. This cleansing is talked about with disease
      2. When we have sinned, that is no small thing! We have a sickness and we should want God to cleanse us. Another way to say it… “Change me!”
4. His Confidence
   1. Three grace words to go along with three sin words (Ex. 34:6; Joel 2:12-13)
      1. Gracious, lovingkindness, and compassion (ASV)
      2. The first thing David does is appeal to these attributes of God’s character.
   2. The confidence in God’s grace does not diminish the humility of the appeal
      1. Do not mistake David’s confidence for pride.
      2. The idea in Hebrews 4:16 is not “Let me see what else I can get away with.” This boldness is coupled with humility.
   3. There is confidence in having been forgiven (Ps. 51:13-15)
      1. This is not arrogance but relief!
      2. David offers this perspective to others who have committed sin.
   4. David was a man after God’s own heart because of the heart displayed here in Psalm 51. Use David’s example in your own walk.