

Recovery Psalm 51

INTRODUCTION

What happens when a believer sins? Sin is like a cancer; left untouched it will kill you, blind you, deaden your tongue, deafen your ears and kill your heart so that you will be far from God. But God has provided a remedy and nowhere is it more eloquently expressed than Psalm 51.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How is it possible for God's people to sin, especially sin with such devastating consequences? Share an example you know up close.
2. How do you explain the difference between the David of 2 Samuel 12 and the one described here? Explain his sin, his seeming callousness, his anger at Nathan's story, his brokenness.
3. List the verbs David uses to make requests of God in this Psalm. How often do they make it into your prayers? Will something change?
4. What's the basis for David's requests? Do you see any excuses, rationalizations?
5. What is the role of guilt and shame? Does God still use others to expose our sin to us? How?
6. What does David promise to do as a result of God's forgiveness and cleansing? Why? How?
7. What does David mean when he says in verse 4, "against you only have I sinned?" What about Bathsheba and Uriah?
8. Read and reread Psalm 73 for next week.

THINK ABOUT IT

When we pray we should keep in mind all of the shortcomings and excesses we feel, and pour them out freely to God, our faithful Father, who is ready to help. If you do not recognize your needs, or think you have none, then you are in the worst possible place. The greatest trouble we can ever know is thinking that we have no trouble for then we have become hard-hearted and insensible to what is inside of us.

Martin Luther