



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

1, 2 Kings Sermon Series

Supports Session 2: Repentance

Sermon Title: "Personal Repentance" (Psalm 51:1-13)

Connection to 1 Kings 8:46-60

Solomon, as king of Israel, publicly prayed a prayer of repentance for the nation. He acknowledged sin and asked God to restore them. David, Solomon's father, prayed a private prayer of repentance when he was caught in his sins of adultery and murder. He too acknowledged the sin in his life and asked for restoration.

Introduction/Opening

Repentance is a common word within the church. How many of us truly know what the word means? A simple definition is a 180 degree turn or an about face. If someone is going north and that person wants to repent, he will immediately turn and head due south.

David, who was defined as a man after God's own heart, provides a model prayer for us to follow as it relates to personal repentance. This prayer is found in Psalm 51, and we are going to look at portions of this prayer together this morning.

Outline

1. Personal repentance appeals for grace (v. 1)

The first step in personal repentance is appealing to the gracious nature of our heavenly Father. David asked God to be gracious to him. David knew his sin of adultery and murder. He did not try to hide his sin or continue to cover it up. Instead, he asked God to be gracious to him because David knew that he needed grace.

When we approach God in personal repentance it is vital that we understand that He is loving and compassionate. If we miss either of these points, we are more likely to avoid repentance because we are unsure of His character. Instead of running from God in fear, David ran towards God. We would be wise to do the same thing.

David asked God to blot out his rebellion. The ability to blot out sin is the mark of grace. Many of us have the tendency to recall and even replay our sins in our minds. God's grace, however, is a love that remembers the sin no more. David was appealing to God for His unending grace.

2. Personal repentance acknowledges sin (v. 3-4)

It has long been said that we are unable to fix something until we admit that it is broken. When we engage in personal repentance, we acknowledge that we have broken God's commands. David did this when he said that his sin was always before him. Prior to

David's encounter with the prophet Nathan, he denied his adultery with Bathsheba and the murder he initiated to cover it up.

David also confessed who he had sinned against. Make no doubt about it, when we sin, we hurt ourselves and we can hurt those around us. Our sin, however, is ultimately against God. He is the One who is holy, and He is the One who sets the rules. His rules are not meant to hurt us, but rather provide protection and are for our own good. Can we learn from David's testimony today and acknowledge our sin and acknowledge that we have sinned against God? When we do, we will experience the grace and compassion of our Father.

3. Personal repentance asks for cleansing (v. 2 & 7)

If a word or phrase is used multiple times in a single passage, then this is a key point. Two times David used the word cleanse or clean. When we truly pursue personal repentance, we desire to be removed from that sin; we desire to be cleansed from it. David knew the damage he had done and wanted to be cleansed from this. He once again appealed to a gracious God and asked Him to personally cleanse him from his sin and rebellion.

4. Personal repentance aches for restoration (v. 10-12)

To be restored is to be made whole again. Reality TV has made a great deal of money for those who are in the restoration business. Some restore homes to their previous beauty. Some restore cars or motorcycles to what they used to be. The amazing thing is that many of us watch these reality shows in awe of the work of the ones restoring things.

God enjoys restoring things too. He does not restore homes or cars. Instead, He restores you and me. He makes us righteous. Not because of our own works, but rather because of His love for us. The restoration is a direct result of His faithful love and abundant compassion. David discovered this to be true because of his personal repentance. We would be wise to learn from David today.

Conclusion

The psalm we have examined today is a model for personal repentance. David called out to the gracious and loving God while acknowledging his sin and asking to be cleansed. God heard his prayer and offered restoration. Do you need to pray this prayer of repentance today? You might need to ask God to forgive you of your sins and be your Savior. If He is your Savior, it does not mean that you are exempt from this prayer. Do you need to pray a prayer of repentance for a sin that you have embraced this week? If yes, do not let this moment pass without approaching the Father and seeking His restoration.

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