



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Acts 1 – 12 Sermon Series

Supports Session 4: Placed

Sermon Title: “A Prayer of Repentance” (Psalm 51)

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### Connection to Session 5

We learned in our group study this morning that Peter preached the gospel message to a large gathering in Jerusalem. Upon hearing the message, they asked what they should do. His answer was to repent. We hear the word “repent” used extensively within the context of the church, but do we know what it means? David, when confronted with his sin of adultery and murder, outlined what repentance truly is.

### Introduction/Opening

When we were young and found ourselves in an argument with a sibling or neighbor our parents would tell us to apologize. Most of the time, we could not get away with a simple, “I’m sorry.” We would have to say what we were sorry for and let the party we offended know that we will not do that again. This is what repentance looks like for us today. David outlined this in Psalm 51. We can see what repentance looks like as we study this passage together.

### Outline

- I. Repentance is calling out to God (v. 1).** It is important to understand the context of this chapter as we seek to learn from this prayer of repentance. David is the author, and he had been confronted by the prophet Nathan concerning his sin of adultery with Bathsheba and then murder to cover up the adultery. When David came to understand that his private sin was known by God, he penned this prayer of repentance, and this serves as an example for us to follow when we too need to repent.

Verse one shows us several important truths about God’s character and our need to call out to Him. Yes, David committed adultery and it was to God that he cried out. David knew that God was gracious, loving, and had abundant compassion. The world wants us to believe that God is an angry grandfather-type figure that stands ready to strike us down when we misbehave. While God is just, He is also gracious in His love and compassion towards His creation.

- II. Repentance is confessing our sins (vv. 4-5).** Once we call out to God for His compassion, we must confess that we have sinned against Him. David committed adultery with Bathsheba and had her husband, Uriah, killed to cover up the sin. But

his sin was ultimately against God. God is the One who sets the standard and when we miss His perfect mark, we have sinned against Him.

It is also important to point out that David did not make any excuses in seeking repentance. Excuses for our sins are all too common. We find it as early as Genesis 3, where Adam blamed Eve and God. Eve turned around and blamed the snake. We, too, can find ourselves blaming others for our mistakes and sins. But, when repentance is needed, we have the model outlined in these verses. David confessed his sin apart from offering excuses and trusted in the goodness of God, even when he knew that he did not deserve it.

**III. Repentance leads to a clean heart (vv. 10-13).** It has often been said that sin will take us farther than we ever want to go and cost us more than we could have ever expected. We see this idea in David's confession. He knew that his sin had changed him, so he asked for a clean heart. He knew that God would have been justified in banishing Himself from David, so he prayed that this would not happen. He understood the impact sin had on his relationship with God, so he prayed for a restoring of the joy of God's salvation. If David believed that God was only just and not also loving, he never would have approached Him at the start.

As the prayer of repentance continues, we see a shift taking place. David did not use his sin as a badge of honor, but he did not hide it either. Today, we are still learning from David's prayer of repentance. When we repent and God restores, He can use us as trophies of His grace to display to others.

**IV. Repentance leads to consistent praise (v. 15).** When we are restored by God's grace, we can't help but praise God for His loving goodness. Some of the best advocates for the message of the gospel are those who have been forgiven much. They know their sin, and they understand that God knows their sin too. But they also know the compassion of God because their prayer of repentance has been heard and forgiveness has been given. When this occurs, they respond like David did – they live in a constant state of praise. The unending compassion that led to David's praise is also available to us. When we experience His grace, we, too, will praise God for His goodness.

## **Conclusion**

Repentance is something we all need. We learned in our groups this morning that Peter called the lost to repentance. We learned in the sermon this morning, that David prayed a prayer of repentance. Repentance is ultimately admitting that we are wrong and trusting in the goodness of God. How does God want each of us to respond to this message today? We can all be assured that no matter where we may be in our journey with Him, we are invited to experience His goodness and grace that accompanies repentance.

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