

### My Sin Is Ever Before Me

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church  
**Psalms 51:1-4.** "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou Judgest."

As David wrote these words he was facing the results of his sinful ways. After having been so close to God, power and position had blinded him in areas of his life. He had become used to having his way and getting what he wanted. This had resulted in the affair with Bathsheba and the death of her husband Uriah. He showed no remorse about any of it until God sent Nathan the prophet to him. Only then did he seem to come to himself and realize that while God loved him and had blessed him the Lord would not let him get away with sin,

David, like many a person, seemed to be caught up in the moment and let his passions take control. While he knew it was wrong, the pleasure of the sin led him on to sin more and more. After he realized that his deeds would be found out, he tried desperately to cover them from the eyes of men. The bible doesn't say whether he thought at all of God and what he would think of David's actions. After two deaths, Uriah and Bathsheba's son, David at last faced what he had done.

**Psalm 51** is David's prayer and confession unto God. While doing the things that he had done he had not thought of the harvest that his deeds would bring. When he looked back on them he had to wonder, like many of us have, "What have I done, and why did I do it?" If another person had done the deeds that David had done to Uriah, David would have had him killed. He was outraged at the story that Nathan told him about the ewe lamb taken from the poor man. Then shocked when Nathan said, "Thou art the man."

David was sorry, but sorrow cannot undo a sinful action, or hurtful words. While anger, or passions, run high a person doesn't think, or even care about anything but what they want at the time. Later

when a person is calm things look differently. That is when true regret and sorrow sets in. If a person really wants to do the right thing and to walk with God there has to be sorrow for such actions. When there is no sorrow for sin the person is lost and will continue in sin.

We might look at David, or even someone we know, possibly even ourselves, and wonder how one could do such hurtful things. Most, if not all, of us have had moments when we let temper, passion, greed, or some other emotion get control of us. Usually it is only after damage to a person, or relationship, is done that the cost of word or action is felt. Sometimes relationships can be restored, and sometimes the hurt is too much.

Being human, and in this flesh, it is a constant battle to resist our impulses to say, or do, something that isn't right. If you're human, you know what I'm talking about. If and when we fail, we need to go to God and repent of our sins. Then whenever possible we need to talk to the person that we have wronged. If a person had sinned against us, it is our duty to forgive them when they repent. Jesus said, "If ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." **Matthew 6:15.**

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the book of I Samuel intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

**SAMUEL AND SAUL**

SEEKING AID TO FIND HIS LOST ANIMALS, SAUL, WITH HIS SERVANT, HAS REACHED SAMUEL THE PROPHET IN RAMAH....

...AND AS SAMUEL SEES SAUL, THE LORD SPEAKS IN HIS EAR...

BEHOLD THE MAN WHOM I SPAKE TO THEE OF! THIS SAME SHALL REIGN OVER MY PEOPLE!

TELL ME, I PRAY THEE, WHERE THE PROPHET'S HOUSE IS?

I AM THE PROPHET! DO NOT FEAR FOR THINE ANIMALS—THEY ARE ALREADY FOUND!

GO UP BEFORE ME INTO THE HIGH PLACE FOR YE SHALL EAT WITH ME TODAY, AND TOMORROW I SHALL TELL THEE ALL THAT IS IN THINE HEART!

BUT I AM ONLY A BENJAMITE! IN THE LEAST FAMILY OF THE SMALLEST TRIBE OF ISRAEL! WHY, THEREFORE, DO YOU HONOR ME IN SUCH MANNER?

AND MUCH TO THE ASTONISHMENT OF SAUL AND HIS SERVANT, SAMUEL PUTS THEM IN THE CHIEF PLACE OF HONOR AT THE HIGH FEAST...

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