



2016: Week 36

Sunday, September 4th 2016

"Compassion for the Broken"

Psalm 51:4

"⁴Against You, You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified when You speak and blameless when You judge." (NASB)

On Sunday Johnnie preached from **Psalm 51**, a psalm in which we see David responding to his grievous sins with a repentant heart. After months of living with unconfessed sin, David finally responded to the Lord's conviction of his various sins by seeking God's grace and forgiveness. Most of us are familiar with David's sin from 2 Samuel involving Uriah the Hittite, Uriah's wife Bathsheba, and the prophet Nathan. David was guilty of adultery, murder, lying, manipulation, and deceit. All of these sins are despicable, and yet, God in His incredible lovingkindness, was willing to forgive David. What an incredible lovingkindness! Although David's salvation was already eternally secure, his fellowship with the Lord was severely fractured by his living with unconfessed sin. Hopefully this passage will encourage us to take our sins **seriously**, to assess our sins **honestly**, and to respond to our sins with a spirit of **brokenness**. Even more importantly, however, may we allow this passage to remind us of the incredible lovingkindness of the Lord!

1. READ Psalm 51:1-9

- What stands out to you from the first half of the psalm? Why?
- In **verse 4**, David declares that he sinned exclusively against the Lord. In light of how David sinned against several others, primarily against Uriah and Bathsheba, how can David say that he sinned *only* against the Lord?
- In **Genesis 39**, when Joseph was tempted with sexual immorality, he declared, "How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?" (**39:9**). In both Joseph's and David's examples, we see that they each viewed their sins as to how they specifically affected God.

How do *your* sins affect God?

How might considering the effects of your sins against God impact the way you a) turn away from sin, and b) respond to your sins when you do commit them?

2. READ Psalm 51:10-19

- What stands out to you from the second half of this psalm? Why?
- In **verse 10**, David asks the Lord to create in him a "clean heart."
What do you think a "clean heart" looks like?

Is it possible for the Lord to create a "clean heart" in you today? How can He do that?
- In **verse 17**, David highlights the Lord's desire for His people to have "broken and contrite hearts."
What might having a "broken and contrite heart" look like in you?

Do you have a "broken and contrite heart" today?

How can you allow the Lord to better shape and develop a "broken and contrite heart" in you?

FAMILY PRAYER: Thank the Lord for showing lovingkindness to you even when you sin. Confess any sins to the Lord that need confessing today. Thank Him for the "blood of Jesus His Son (which) cleanses us from all sin" (**1 John 4:7**).