

# Repenting Well / Psalm 51

## Course Correction Lessons from David and Bathsheba

### Psalm 51

*For the director of music. A psalm of David.*

*When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.*

#### Ask for forgiveness.

Psalm 51:1-2 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup> Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. NIV

Ask for mercy, not for what you deserve.

#### Don't water down your sin by calling it something else.

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Exodus 34:6b-7a The Lord passed by before him and proclaimed: “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and abounding in loyal love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> keeping loyal love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin. NET

Ephesians 2:4-5 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. NIV

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. NIV

#### Confess what you have done.

Psalm 51:3-6 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. <sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. <sup>5</sup> Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. <sup>6</sup> Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. NIV

#### Own it.

Recognize your sin against God, not just your human offense.

Our sins are, first and foremost, against the Lord.

Our sins usually also affect other people.

**Humbly acknowledge that your sin is not an anomaly.**

Romans 5:12b Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned. NIV

Ephesians 2:3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. NIV

Genesis 8:21a The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: “Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood.” NIV

**Ask for complete cleansing (not just superficial).**

Psalms 51:7-12 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. NIV

Exodus 12:22a Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. NIV

Isaiah 1:18 “Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. NIV

Hebrews 10:17-18 Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.” <sup>18</sup> And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary. NIV

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! NIV

Colossians 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. NIV

**Aim for complete restoration.**

Psalms 51:13-15 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.

<sup>14</sup> Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. <sup>15</sup> Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.

**Don't gloss over it. Address the heart.**

Psalms 51:16-17 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. <sup>17</sup> My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise. NIV

**Return to a restored relationship.**

Psalms 51:18-19 May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem. <sup>19</sup> Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar. NIV