**Sermon Notes**

**“Psalm 51: How to Repent”**

\Psalm 51 (NIV)

*For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.* 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 4 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. 5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. 6 Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. 7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. 10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. 14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. 15 Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. 16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. 17 My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise. 18 May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem. 19 Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

**Repentance 101**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of repentance (v. 1-3)
2. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of repentance (v. 4)
3. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of repentance (v.10)
4. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of repentance (v. 13,15,18)

**Questions for Discussion**

1. Which part of the sermon was most impactful, interesting, or thought-provoking for you? Why?

2. How would you explain the difference between being remorseful and being repentant?

3. David only repented when he was confronted by Nathan. What does this tell us about the nature of repentance? What does it tell us about the nature of Christian relationships?

4. Do you have a “Nathan” in your life?

5. Have you committed a sin(s) so serious that you believed yourself to be disqualified from significance in God’s kingdom? How does the context of this psalm challenge that assumption?

6. What would you say to someone who believed they were beyond hope and beyond God’s forgiveness?

7. Do you agree with the statement “All of the Christian life is repentance”?

**Prayer Prompters**

**-**Pray that we as a church would see God’s call to repent as an opportunity and not a threat.

**-**Pray for those within our church family that are living with the weight of secret sins pressing in on them; pray that they would be cut to the heart and that would hear God’s gracious call to repent.

-Pray for those who have never genuinely repented of their sin; that they would see their need for Jesus and place their trust in him.

-Pray for God to meet the needs for our building campaign.

**Take Action:**

1. Pray Psalm 51
2. Ask God to reveal something you need to repent of.
3. “Vices are cured by their opposite.” What action could you take that would put to death this sin in your life?