

# **PSALM OF THE BROKENHEARTED**

## **Psalm 51**

**We need to have the brokenness of a beggar as we examine  
the shamefulness of our sin situations**

### **I. THE CONDITION OF THE BROKENHEARTED** (from the inscription)

#### **A. DAVID IS CORRUPT**

1. The Declaration: "After he had gone in to Bathsheba"
2. The Details: cf. II Sam. 11
  - a. Adultery - II Sam. 11: 1-5
  - b. Murder - II Sam. 11: 14-15
  - c. Intrigue - II Sam. 11 :26-27

#### **B. DAVID IS CONFRONTED**

1. His Words - II Sam. 12:7-9
2. Our Ways: We sometimes need someone to tell us that we are dirty (See Gal. 6:1-2)

### **II. THE CRY OF THE BROKENHEARTED** (1-2)

#### **A. THE BASIS OF THE CRY: Humility**

1. A Plea: God be merciful
  - a. Gracious: a plea for God to pity us.
  - b. Loving kindness: a plea for God's steadfast compassion and bountiful kindness.
  - c. Compassion : a plea for God's yearning love
2. A Proclamation: I have messed up
  - a. transgression > he calls his sin rebellion
  - b. iniquity > crooked dealings, fraud, deceit
  - c. sin > error, wandering away

#### **B. THE BURDEN OF THE CRY: Forgiveness**

1. Blot Out > Take away the guilt > Pardon
2. Wash > Scrub, rubbing up and down > working hard to remove a stain from clothing
3. Cleanse > Declare me clean or free from disease

#### **C. THE BESPEAKING OF THIS CRY: A Publican**

- See Luke 18:10-14

### III. **THE CONFESSION OF THE BROKENHEARTED** (3-6)

#### A. He FACES HIS SIN (3)

1. There is responsibility
  - a. He claims his crime - "I", "my", "mine" \_
  - b. He does not seek to blame others for his sin
2. There is recognition
  - "I know" and "Ever before me"

#### B. He FACES HIS SOVEREIGN (4)

1. The crime
  - a. It was against you
  - b. I did this in your sight
2. The condemnation > He agrees that what God says about him is true

#### C. He FACES HIS SUSCEPTIBILITY (5)

- He turns from his activity in sin to his proclivity to sin
1. His nature > He was born with a sin nature
  2. His naturalness - "Behold" > He is astonished at how easily he has fallen into sin

#### D. He FACES THE STANDARD (6)

1. God's Desire > Truth > The reality of righteousness
2. God Design > To know wisdom > To be experienced with what is right
3. God's Decision > Truth and wisdom affecting all areas of our life

### IV. **THE CONCERN OF THE BROKEN-HEARTED** (7-11)

#### A. A PURITY FROM GOD (7,9-10)

1. A Cleansing (7)
  - a. The concept: That God would passover his sin and not punish him for it
  - b. The contrast: Whiter than snow
2. A Concealment (9)
  - a. Turn away from my sin > Hide your face from my sin
  - b. Tear out my sin > "blot out" - the idea is that of removing the page
3. A Creation (10)
  - a. A clean heart: The old heart was corrupted and could not be "remodeled"
  - b. A right spirit > A spirit of righteousness

#### B. A PEACE WITH GOD (8)

1. The Distress
  - a. David felt as though he had broken bones – Cf. Ps.38:1-8
  - b. His bones were put out of place so that David could be put in his place
2. The Desire
  - a. To hear joy and gladness > to rejoice
  - b. To know peace rather than pain

C. THE PRESENCE OF GOD (11)

1. The Plea > Don't cast me out of your presence
  - To be "cast out" is to be like a leper banished from normal contact with the community
2. The Peril
  - a. Having the "Spirit" removed
  - b. He is speaking of the "theocratic anointing" that enabled him to rule well

V. **THE COVENANT OF THE BROKEN-HEARTED** (12-15)

A. RESTORE AND I WILL PROCLAIM (12-13)

1. The Request (12)
  - a. Uplift: Restore the joy of my salvation > my walk with God
  - b. Uphold: I need someone to prop me up to stand against the temptations
2. The Resolution (13) > I will show them how to come back to God
  - a. I will teach: Telling them how God helped me
  - b. They will turn > Avoiding the pitfalls of sin

B. RELEASE AND I WILL PRAISE (14-15)

1. The Prayer: Deliver me and open my lips
2. The Passion: To sing and say His praise

VI. **THE CONCLUSION OF THE BROKEN-HEARTED** (16-17)

A. GOD'S DISDAIN FOR OFFERINGS (16)

1. No sacrifice was wanted
2. No sin offering was acceptable (the burnt offering)

B. GOD'S DELIGHT IN OPENESS (17)

1. God wants brokenness
  - "A heart is never at its best till it be broken; for till it be broken we cannot see what is in it" (Richard Baxter in Treasury of David)
2. God wants contrition
  - a. To be contrite is to be crushed or broken into pieces.
  - b. When crushed a man becomes nothing and God becomes everything

**CONCLUSION:**

- 1. Will you be broken so that God can probe into your heart and see what is there?**
- 2. Will you beg for His forgiveness when He shows you the results?**

**MAY GOD HELP US TO BE BROKEN BEGGERS!**