

## Psalm 51

### I. Intro: Create in Me a Clean Heart

#### A. Initial response

1. Love of that passage
2. Personal importance
3. Struggle in preparing this

#### B. Much easier to be Martha

1. Written Directions
2. Gina supplied my lovely accessories
3. Cleaning is something I understand
  - a. Women want things clean
  - b. Dirt is a universal problem
    1. Poor
    2. Rich something clean
  - c. This applies to our hearts too

### II. Our hearts are not naturally clean

A. *Prov. 20:9* “*Who can say, ‘I have cleansed my heart, I am pure from my sin?’*”

B. *Rom. 3:23* “*...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*”

C. Rich or poor, young or old, tall or short, married or single, we all have unclean hearts

III. But, even though we all have the same afflictions, we have very different levels of tolerance of “dirt”.

A. What is acceptably clean to one person is unacceptable to another.

1. Husbands/children can step right over a mound of dirty clothes
2. Sometimes one person’s standards change over time/my housecleaning decline.

B. The same is true of the cleanness of our hearts

1. As we age we become increasingly comfortable with our own dirt /@times we are not even aware of how unclean our hearts are.

C. For example, let's look at David the author of Ps. 51

1. We 1<sup>st</sup> meet David as a boy in *I Samuel 16* –

a. He is anointed by Samuel.

b. He plays his harp to soothe Saul's spirit

2. Next we see David demonstrate courage and a great faith when going against Goliath and thus beginning his ascent in the public arena

3. He becomes a great warrior – but Saul became jealous and began to pursue him to kill him - - during all of these struggles he does not sin against God or Saul

4. Then eventually he becomes king.

a. *II Samuel Ch. 8 and 10* list many of his military conquests.

b. He was very successful. (Do you think maybe constant battles might do something to your heart?)

5. Well, then in *II Sam 11*, we see that it is time for David to go out to battle again, but this time he chooses not to go...

D. David's great sin

1. We all know the story...*II Sam. 11:2-5*

2. *Now vs. 6 (READ)* Here's the turning point right David knows he has sinned so he's going to confess to Uriah right? WRONG!

3. David tries to cover up his sin, and when that doesn't work, he has Uriah killed....and when he receives word that Uriah has been killed listen to his response

READ VS 25 “*David told the messenger Say this to Joab: ‘Don’t let this upset you; the sword devours one as well as another...’*”

4. We look at the sins David committed and we are appalled, but David does not even seem to be aware that there is cause for concern – people have a different tolerance for sins in their own lives – UNTIL

E. God sends Nathan to David

1. Nathan tells David a story about 2 men (*II Sam. 12:1-4*)
2. v. 5 tells us that David's anger burned greatly against the man & he declares that the man deserves to die

3. Nathan tells him He is that man!

4. It is at this point that David acknowledges his sin and at this point that David writes *Psalms 51*

- a. vs. 1-4 *“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.”*

- b. vs. 10-12 *“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.”*

5. WOW – that's why David is called a man after God's own heart – because when he recognized his sin he mourned; he longed to be closer to God; he desperately wanted a clean heart.

F. But what would have happened if God hadn't sent Nathan to confront him? Would David have come to repentance? We don't know...

G. When we were baptized our hearts were cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

1. Jesus did the major part of the cleaning when He died on the cross.

2. God provided for our continual cleaning by giving us His Word to study and learn what is pleasing to Him.

3. But He also established the church to aid us in keeping our hearts clean...

Look around ladies @ your own personal maid service for the heart!

a. *I John 1:9 tells us “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

b. If we recognize that something isn't right in our lives, we must tell someone! When we're struggling, we need help...please ask for it.

c. We need to recognize the signs of sin in our hearts (thoughts), but if we don't then our sisters in Christ need to make us aware (just like Nathan did) when our sinful hearts lead to sinful actions...and they will.

4. Lastly, Jesus said in *John 14:2 that He is preparing a place for us...if we persevere.*

*II Peter 3:14 sums is up pretty well:*

*“So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to his, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him.”*