

Create in Me a Clean Heart
Psalm 51

“David had committed two sins for which the Mosaic law provided no forgiveness. For deliberate murder and adultery death was the inevitable penalty. He knew that before God there was no forgiveness through any sacrifices which he might offer or any gifts which he might present. With Micah he could have asked the solemn question: ‘Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my first-born for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?’ No! By such offering God cannot be appeased. David might have said: ‘If I build him an house, a magnificent temple; if I plead my hitherto circumspect life and all my good deeds in his service, will these not compensate for my lapse, and restore me to his favor?’ No! ‘We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags.

There is but one way back to God. And David knew it. It is through the merits of the Lamb of God.” Murdoch

- I. Psalm 51 speaks of the danger of moral compromise when we fail to keep our relationship with the Lord fresh and humble before him, when we stop needing him to take us through life day by day. David was a warrior king who knew what it meant to guard and defend the nation of Israel, but the one thing he didn't do was guard and defend the integrity of his heart. It is a warning to all of us to above all else, **guard our hearts** knowing that everything we do and say flows from it.

Proverbs 4:23 *Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*

- II. The call to repentance comes from God. He will make us aware of our need for repentance to spare us from the guilt and consequences of sinning against him. His desire is to offer us mercy, loving kindness and compassion to bless us and prosper us in our relationship with him. How we respond determines in many ways the state of our spiritual, emotional and physical wellbeing.

Psalm 51:1-9

2 Samuel 12:1-10

2 Samuel 12:15-16

Isa. 1:18

Heb. 9:19-22

“Mercy denotes God’s loving assistance to the pitiful. Unfailing love points to the continuing operation of this mercy. Compassion teaches that God feels our infirmities.”
Boice

1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

2 Corinthians 7:10 *Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.*

- III. With repentance comes renewal. David knew that nothing good lived in him, that is, in his sinful nature (Rom. 7:18). He cried out to the Lord to “**create**” in him a renewed steadfast passion for godliness so that he could encourage others to live well for the Lord. We are incapable of personal revival apart from our humble dependence upon the divine power of the Spirit to bring about a steadfast passion for the things of Christ.

Ps. 51:10-19

Ezek. 36:25-27

Ezek. 36:25-27 *I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.*