



Date: _____

Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions
Great Chapters of the Bible Series, Lesson 45

Lesson Title: Repentance Chapter: Psalm 51

Take Home Point: Confess your sins and receive God's forgiveness.

Warm-Up:

When you were a child, did you ever get caught doing something wrong? What was your response when you were caught? Did you lie about it, or try to blame someone else, or get all defensive, or just refuse to talk? I have to admit I certainly tried all those at one time or another. Sometimes it worked; sometimes it didn't! These are all methods used by children (and adults, too!) to avoid accepting responsibility for their actions. Sometimes it's possible to "get away with it" when dealing with other people, for example, parents or teachers or spouses. But there are always two who know the truth – the one who committed the wrong, and the God who knows all. As the saying goes, "The problem with lying is that you have to remember what story you told and to whom!"

Read: Psalm 51:1-17; Romans 6:23; 2 Samuel 11:1-12:13

Observation (What happened?):

List all the actions of God in forgiving sin.

What kind of heart and spirit did David know was desired by the Lord?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What did David mean when he said it was only against God that he had sinned?

What does it mean that the wages of sin is death?

Insight:

"The truth will set you free, but first it will make you miserable." This little twist on the words of Jesus found in John 8:36 is actually pretty accurate. Why? Because learning God's truth means learning a way of life that is at odds with how we want to live. Read the words David used to describe how he felt before he confessed his sin, and what he asked God to restore to him. It is, or should be, the same with us. Jesus sets us free from our sin and selfishness. It can be very hard to confess our failures to follow God's ways, and we will be miserable until we do. But just as painful surgery on our physical body is required to remove diseased tissue, so God must sometimes put us through difficulties, pain, and sorrows to turn to him for removal of sin's burden. Imagine the mental and emotional roller coaster David went through in the Bible account that led to Psalm 51. Just another "day at the office" pretending everything was okay, then a confrontation so terrible he despaired of life, then great relief, then true release from his sin. His crushing load was lifted by God's forgiveness.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you approach God when you sin? How do you know he forgives you?

Pray for the children in your small group to recognize how serious sin is, and that God is eager to forgive their sins.

Kingdom Quest year 2