

8th November 2015

David sought forgiveness because of God's mercy (Pt 3 David).

Introduction:

This is our third study on the person of David in the scriptures.

From our previous study.

(1) David behaved himself wisely in all his ways, and (2) David was a murderer, and an adulterer, and (3) David acknowledged his sin.

Question from our previous teaching:

* Given that scriptures record that David walked wisely in all his ways, yet he sinned in the "matter of Uriah the Hittite" (1Kg.15: 5), what else did David need to do other than acknowledge his sin, for him to have a heart after God?

Three points are established from the Scriptures that contribute to an answer.

1. David knew of God's lovingkindness so when he sinned he sought His mercy.
2. David knew God's tender mercies so when he sinned he asked for his sins to be blotted out.
3. David knew God could cast him away because of his sin.

1. David knew of God's lovingkindness so when he sinned he sought His mercy.

Supporting verse.

Ps.51: 1 "To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bath-sheba. Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness".

Context & meaning of verse.

* Given that each of our points is from Ps.51 we will provide the setting in this point and will not repeat it for the subsequent points.

The setting for Ps.51 is David's realisation that he has sinned before God in the matter of Uriah the Hittite, where he committed adultery with Bathsheba and then put her husband Uriah in the frontline of the battle where he was killed (2Sam11). The Lord God sent Nathan the seer to see David and tell him a story about two men, one rich and the other poor. And a traveller came through the town and the rich man did not take of his flock to feed the man, "but took the poor man's lamb" (2Sam.12: 4). David's anger was kindled against the rich man, and then Nathan said "Thou art the man" (verse 7). It is in the context of realising his sin before God that David wrote Ps.51, as we see in our verse (verse 1). David knew of Jehovah's lovingkindness from the law (Ex. 34: 6), and from his own experience because out of the 30 occurrences of the word "lovingkindness" in the scriptures 21 of them are in the Psalms. Hence, David's first request to God was to have mercy on him, "according to thy lovingkindness".

Other scriptural support.

See also in Ps.69: 16 & 119: 156.

Application of verse today.

* The Psalms are written to the nation of Israel, however God is the same today (Heb.13: 8), and we know that a man seeks mercy from the Lord today because he knows of the Lord's lovingkindness (see Rom.2: 4 - "The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance").

Illustration.

* Parents of teenagers often struggle with knowing what their sons and daughters of that age are up to perhaps because the teenagers feel that their parents wouldn't understand or extend to them any mercy. Then there are parents where their teenagers come home and when the parents ask, "what have you been up to" after knowing the look that they see in their eyes, the teenager will sit with them and pour out their heart, because experience tells them that their parents will respond with mercy.

Learning from our illustration.

* Mercy is a bit like grace which, when speaking of God, is often understood as "unmerited love" but mercy also includes the sentiment of forgiveness, pardon, or leniency when a person has done

wrong. Hence, in our illustration the teenager has experienced their parents mercy or leniency when they have shared what has happened. And as we saw in our previous study, David was not afraid to come before his God and acknowledge his sin, and David would have known how God responded to Israel as a young nation being “abundant in goodness and truth” (Ex.34: 6).

Challenge & or encouragement.

* The challenge for the lost is to **know** the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ of scripture, not the Jehovah’s Witness (Russelites) god, not the Mormon’s god, but the God of the Holy Bible. Once a person knows God’s history with Israel and what He did in sending His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, who died for our sin, then they would know that **He** is abundant in mercy, ready to pardon, not just be lenient as the world knows mercy, but **abundant** in mercy according to His lovingkindness. Be encouraged to identify your God, the God of the Bible, to speak out about **His** mercy especially to those who do not know Him, and all their life have been told there is no God. Be patient and kind to them who do not know Him, that they may know the lovingkindness of God in Christ, and so call on Him for mercy.

2. David knew God’s tender mercies so when he sinned he asked for his sins to be blotted out.

Supporting verse.

* Ps.51: 1 “To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bath-sheba. Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.”

Meaning of our verse.

* Within the same Psalm David records twice his request for God to “blot out all mine iniquities” (verses 1 and 9), and it was because of God’s tender mercies that he made the request.

Other scriptural support.

Is.43: 25

Application of verse today.

* The application for our verse is the same as our previous point, where God’s tender mercies led a Jew to ask God to blot out his sins. We see the likeness again in Paul’s acknowledgment of the goodness of God leading a man to repentance (Rom.2: 4).

Illustration.

* Imagine being the pilot that dropped the bomb on Hiroshima toward the end of WWII. How could you ever think that God would forgive you for playing a part in the deaths of 140,000 people? Claude Eatherly who flew the weather reconnaissance mission prior to the Englo Gay dropping the bomb was reported to have been riddled with guilt and tried to commit suicide. Clearly whatever sin he felt convicted of, he never felt free, he never felt as if his sins were blotted out.

Learning from our illustration.

* A heathen can go to spiritualists, become a Muslim, a Mormon, or a Buddhist and make a stand for peace, but today, only the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ can blot out a man’s sin. The heathen often struggle to get their head around the fairness of a man that repents for bearing false witness, whilst another man who has committed heinous crimes against humanity can get off his sins by simply believing that Christ died for his sin on the cross at Calvary. Yet for a believer it shows the depth and breadth of God’s tender mercies that when a man believes God He experiences His mercy in Christ. That decision to believe God is available to all, the hurdles to trusting in Christ are the same for the drunkard, as they are the liar, the thief, or the pilot of the Engola Gay. When you know and believe God is a God of tender mercies in Christ, He WILL blot out all your transgressions.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* Remember that David sinned by his eyes looking on Bathsheba, and when Satan made him number the people, he was king of Israel, he was a child of God. So whether you are saved and you do something that is unthinkable, or you know of people that struggle to accept that God can blot

out their sin, remember that it is only on the basis of His tender mercies that we even ask Him to forgive our sin. He paid the ultimate sacrifice that we who **believe** may receive forgiveness. Regardless of how big or small our sins are, God will blot out our transgressions in Christ.

3. David knew God could cast him away because of his sin.

Supporting verse.

Ps.51: 11 "Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me."

Meaning of verse.

* David knew the penalty under for both murder and adultery was death (see Ex.21: 12 & Lev.20: 10). That is why his first request to God was for leniency from what he deserved.

Other scriptural support.

Isa 41:9

Application of verse today.

* The application for verse 11 is the same as our previous points, where a man who rejects Christ today and so obeys "not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2Thes.1: 8) will be "punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord" (2Thes.1: 9). Hence, they will be cast into hell (Ps.9: 17), and from there "cast into the lake of fire" (Rev.20: 15).

Illustration.

* Today many in mainstream churches do not believe in hell. I spoke to a Jehovah Witness couple who challenged me on Friday night when I gave them a tract that asks "Heaven or Hell: which will you choose?" and they replied: "neither". That is, they do not believe that a God of love and mercy could cast anyone away for ever to a place of burning. And they used Ps.103: 9 as their supporting verse. So we considered the verse comparing scripture with scripture, and then turned to their NWT pointing out that it was **not** holy scripture because of the errors. Did they believe? No, they chose not to believe that God will cast away those who reject His Son the Lord Jesus Christ (Jn.3: 36).

Learning from our illustration.

* "The wages of sin is death" (Rom.6: 23). God will cast away those who reject His Son the Lord Jesus Christ into the pit of hell. People who receive the tracts and who read the scriptures regarding hell, choose either to believe God's words or reject them. And if they reject God words, then because of His just judgment (Rom.3: 26) he will cast them into hell.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* When a church only believes in the goodness of God as the means for a man to be led to the cross of Christ, they forget about the need for a man to also fear Him (Rom.3: 18) . And throughout scripture we see that God is a God to be feared, because He will cast those who have sinned, and not believed in His Son, into the lake of fire that is prepared for the devil and his angels (Matt.25: 41). David's fear of the Lord and his knowledge that God could cast him away because of his sin contributed to his heart being like the heart of God. The encouragement for us today is that we know the whole character of our God, His lovingkindness, His mercy, the multitude of His tender mercies, and His wrath, and therefore be motivated to obey Him and depart from our iniquity (Prov.16: 6). That pleases God when a man recognises his own sin in His presence.

Back to our question: What else did David need to do other than acknowledge his sin, for him to have a heart after God?

A summary of our points that contribute to our answer.

1. David knew of God's lovingkindness so when he sinned he sought His mercy.
2. David knew God's tender mercies so when he sinned he asked for his sins to be blotted out.
3. David knew God could cast him away because of his sin.