

Sermon Series: “Songs for the Seasons of Life”—Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN—4/27/08

Title: “A Song of Confession”

Text: Psalm 51

Intro.: *Ills.: Better late than never*

Theme: One of the hardest seasons of life is when we come to a personal conviction that we have sinned and need to admit to it; yet in our unconditional forgiveness from God through Christ we find the power and peace to do it.

Coming clean (Print Psalm 51: 1-4)

- Calling sin a sin
- 1. The context of David’s year long cover-up of adultery and murder
 - a. *When I refused to confess my sin, I was weak and miserable, and I groaned all day long. Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Ps 32: 3-4(NLT)*
- 2. Sin is “lawlessness”/“rebellion”/“missing the mark”/“evil”/“iniquity” (not just misunderstand, fib, mistake)
 - a. **Ills.: Cartoon: Sinner redefined as “morally challenged”**
- Seeing our sin as being against God (**vs. 4**)
- 1. Until we get there, we see no sin, no need for confession/forgiveness, and no need for Jesus as our Savior
- What we need is a removal not a white wash of our sin
- 1. **Ills.: Kilz it**
- 2. We need mercy and justice — God not deal with us according to our sin but that he take out the full wrath on Jesus
 - a. *“Wipe out”* and *“cleanse me of my sin”* (**vs. 2**)
 - b. Not looking for a pass but for forgiveness (not being satisfied with a “that’s o.k.” when confessing)

Unconditional surrender (Print Psalm 51: 5-9)

- We need a Savior outside of ourselves
- 1. We need one who can get the whole stain of sin out (David says, “*De-sin me*” and “*wash me whiter than snow*”)
 - a. *“Come now, let us reason together,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.” Isaiah 1: 18*
- 2. Confessing not only our sin but also our inability from conception (**original sin**) to do anything about it (**vs.5**)
 - a. A good student of knowledge of God (theology) is one who sees human depravity as handled by a gracious God
- A re-creation of a broken life
- 1. *If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation 2 Cor 5: 17-18*
- 2. David needed God to give him ear to hear and healing from the loving discipline (**broken bones**) and so sang out
 - a. *Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Hebrews 12:9*
 - b. *Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face. Job 13: 15*
- 3. Learning the song of joy in the midst of discipline because you know that the penalty has been paid & result good

Singing with joy during the change (Print Psalm 51: 10-13)

- All brokenness requires change which we resist because of fear
- 1. Fear of losing the familiar even though it is destructive
- 2. Fear of change because we put our hope in things/circumstances rather than God
- 3. Fear of shame and no joy because of my great memory for past sins
- It takes God not just to reform us but to transform us
- 1. Create (bring out of nothing) a new heart/attitude to love without fear (**vs. 10**)
- 2. Crushing the will but not the spirit (**vs. 10**)
- 3. Setting up shop within us by his Spirit to guide us back from the fog of sin into which we have fallen (**vs. 11, 12**)
- 4. Using other humans to teach me so that I can teach/lead others in their fallenness (**vs.13**)

Do I have a witness (Print Psalm 51: 14-17)

- When we are forgiven, God doesn’t want us to keep it quiet (**vss. 14, 15**)
- 1. **Ills.: Worth in God’s eyes**
- Sharing my witness is not about me but about my great God and Savior
- 1. No room for showmanship — *but a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Vs. 17*
- 2. So sing it out, but let God’s Spirit play the melody, so that your song is neither sharp nor flat in the ears of others

Better late than never

While visiting Mount Isa, Australia, in 1983, an American man stole a boomerang from a local art museum. Twenty-five years later, he returned it with a check and a note of apology. "I was younger and dumber," he wrote. "It was the wrong thing to do; I'm sorry." Though the man included his full contact information, the mayor of Mount Isa has decided he will not disclose the man's identity to the authorities or the local press. The mayor explained, "I think putting his name on [his letter] was part of his purifying effort." **Kevin Miller, executive vice president, Christianity Today International, and Brian Lowery, associate editor, PreachingToday.com; source: "It wasn't all bad," The Week (2-1-08)**



Worth in God's Eyes

Have you ever felt dirty, broken, or worthless? Everyone has. But if someone offered you a \$20 bill, would you take it? What if that person wadded it up and threw it on the ground—would you still want it? What if they stepped on it, kicked it, and even spit on it? Could you still go to the store and spend it? The answer is yes. That bill has value because of what it is, not because of how it looks, ... **Mike Silva, Would You Like Fries with That? (Word, 2005) Portland, Oregon**

Psalms 51:1-19

¹Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.

²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.

⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

⁶Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.

⁷Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which You have broken rejoice.

⁹Hide Your face from my sins And blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

¹¹Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit.

¹³Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You.

¹⁴Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness.

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, That my mouth may declare Your praise.

¹⁶For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering.

¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.