

God is giving to David the “much more” of 2 Sam 12:8.

- He is asking God to “open his lips” so he can declare God’s praise.
- Ps. 103: 4,10, 12

Love the Gospel, Live the Gospel, Advance the Gospel

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- What does David mean when he says, “Against you, you only have I sinned”? Keep in mind the backdrop for David’s unusually insightful confession in 2 Sam. 12:9-10, 14.
- If we desire to hear the words that David heard, “The Lord has taken away your sin...” how should our confession mirror David’s confession?
- When we ask a fellow believer to forgive us, what are we more acutely aware of; our sin against our brother or our sin directly against God himself? How does David’s specific confession inform and transform our confession of sin to others?
- Does your heart's cry ever seem like David's “Create in me a clean heart”? How does our struggle as believers with remaining sin point us toward the sufficiency of Christ? What area in your life do you sense that you too are in need of this kind of overhaul?
- In your present struggle with sin, how might you turn up the volume of grace toward the lies that lead to sin? How do you daily practice preaching God’s grace and truth to yourself and others

How Grace Gets Loud in Repentance

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Text: Psalm 51:1-17

The story behind the song (2 Sam. 11-12)

When kings go off to war, David was taking a nap!

David is not singing. He is groaning. (Ps. 32:3-4)

3 When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer

“...the thing that David had done displeased the Lord” (2 Sam. 11:27)

In God’s displeasure toward one of his own...grace gets LOUD! (2 Sam 12)

1. Repentance starts with God (Ps. 51:1-2)

“And the Lord sent Nathan...” (2 Sam 12:1)

God’s starting point. He does not **begin** with a running list of David’s sins.

David's starting point (v. 1); he begins his appeal based on the character and nature of God, not his sin.

⁶ *And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation."*

God's Glory is MOST clearly manifested to a rebellious people in Ex 34 as a *reconciling* God.

2. Repentance requires accurate self assessment (Ps. 51:3-5)

David's appeal is based on truth. The truth of who God is and the truth of who David is.

v. 4 "Against you, you only have I sinned..."

- Gen 39:9; Gen 20:2-6
- Luke 15:18

Repentance requires accurate, God enlightened self assessment.

David nails it! "Surely I was sinful at birth..." (Ps 51:5)

THE REALITY. Even the finest of our intents...

- JC Ryle said it this way "Our best deeds are no more than splendid sins"
- JI Packer says it this way "Our best deeds are shot through with sin and contain something for which we need to be forgiven."

The gospel is better than "un-conditional" love. God never accepts me "Just as I am"

The Gospel says, "God accepts you just as Christ is. Christ bears the curse you deserve. Christ is fully pleasing to the Father and gives you His own perfect goodness... God never accepts me 'as I am.' He accepts me "as I am in Jesus Christ." The center of gravity is different... The true Gospel... radically de-centers people—what the Bible calls 'fear of the Lord' and 'faith'—to look outside themselves." (David Powlison)

3. Repentance ends with God (Ps. 51:7-19)

What is hyssop? (Ps 51:7)

- Exodus 12:22
- John 19:28-30

Seriously, how do you get whiter than snow?

David is desperate. In need of an "alien" righteousness; one that he himself does not possess. He is asking for the miraculous.

"Create in me a pure heart..." Ps 51:10

- Gen. 1:1
- Gen. 1:27

Restore to me the *joy* of your salvation and my tongue will sing!
(Ps 51:12)