

Sermon outline notes: Psalm 51 Relationship Restored

(The background story to this Psalm can be found in 2 Samuel 11:1-12:14).

People were created for relationships, with one another and of course with their God.

Psalm 51 is David's blueprint for a restored and strengthened relationship with God through a journey of personal repentance after breaking fellowship with God.

This can be divided into 3 sections:

1) Sorrow for sin vs. 1-6

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened, (Psalm 66:18).

2) Seeking the Lord vs. 7-12

Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces, but He will heal us; He has injured us but He will bind up our wounds, (Hosea 6:1).

3) Serving in the Lord vs. 13-19

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship, (Romans 12:1).

I love the Lord, for He heard my voice; He heard my cry for mercy. Because He turned His ear to me, I will call on Him as long as I live, (Psalm 116:1-2).

Points to Ponder:

- 1) Share reactions to the sermon.
- 2) David had become spiritually lazy, leading to more serious sin and his crisis with God. How can we 'learn from David's mistake' and prevent similar crisis events in our lives? (e.g. effective Christian fellowship, Romans 12:15; Galatians 6:1-2; Hebrews 3:12-13; 1 John 3:16).
- 3) "Consequences are like tattoos, you have to live with them!" Read 2 Samuel 12:7-14. Although David was not punished for his sin, there remained painful consequences from his sin, (2 Samuel 12:15-20:26 records this). Are there clues in the text how we can live simultaneously with who we are in Christ and the consequences of who we were in the flesh?
- 4) Psalm 32 is often twinned with psalm 51. Read psalm 32 and discuss parallels with and further developments from psalm 51, (and any other insights).