

# What Every Sinner Needs

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*Ps 51:1-11*

## INTRODUCTION

- A. Illustration about the boy playing with rattlesnakes, *Illustrations for Biblical Preaching*, pp 338-39.
  - 1. Those rattlesnakes looked so harmless, but they left the boy in dire need.
  - 2. Sin can look so harmless, yet sin leaves us in dire need.
- B. David's sin with Bathsheba left him in dire need.
  - 1. The situation looked so harmless, yet Nathan confronted David with his sin.
  - 2. David wrote this psalm shortly after that encounter with Nathan; in this psalm, David tells us "What Every Sinner Needs."

## REMISSION, vv 1-2

- A. David here pleads with God to forgive him.
  - 1. He asks for mercy according to God's lovingkindness.
    - a. Mercy is the compassion that causes one to help the weak, the sick, & the poor—Mercy is the attribute that causes God to want to help the sinful.
    - b. Lovingkindness refers to God's faithful love—this attribute allows God to be patient with sinners.
  - 2. He asks for his sins to be blotted out—This pictures his sins as a debt having been written down.
  - 3. He asks to be washed & cleansed from his sin—He views his sins as being dirt that needs cleansing.
- B. David needed God's forgiveness.
  - 1. God by no means clears the guilty (Ex 34:7).
  - 2. The wages of sin is death (Rm 6:23).
- C. Illustration about Copernicus, *Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations*, #5230.
- D. If you are sin, you need God's forgiveness. Do you have that forgiveness?

## REALIZATION, vv 3-5

- A. Here David expresses his guilt for his sin.
  - 1. He acknowledged his sins, for they were before him, v 3.
    - a. David knew what he had done was wrong.
      - 1) He didn't try to wiggle out of it—He didn't say, "Everyone sins & it's no big deal."
      - 2) Here, he says, "I have sinned."
    - b. David accepted personal responsibility for his sin.
      - 1) He uses the expressions "my transgressions" & "my sin."
      - 2) These were not merely sins everyone else was committing—David himself had sinned.
    - c. Without the acknowledgement of sin, there can be no forgiveness (1 Jn 1:8).
    - d. Illustration about the Conscience Fund, *Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations*, #1757.
  - 2. He had sinned only against God, v 4.

- a. At first glance, this verse seems odd; David had sinned against Uriah & Bathsheba.
  - b. Yet, David knew that he had broken God's covenant—At the root of every sin there is sin against God.
  - 3. God might be found blameless when he judged, v 4.
    - a. David's sin deserved punishment.
      - 1) David's implies he will accept whatever punishment God gives, for he will be fair.
      - 2) As a result of David's sin, the child born to him died (2 Sm 12:14-23).
    - b. God continues to judge righteously; God's judgments are true (Rom 2:2).
  - 4. David had been brought forth in iniquity.
    - a. Many have attempted to take this text to teach original sin—this text does **not** teach such.
    - b. David is poetically expressing the depth of his guilt—David says he feels as though he's always been a sinner.
    - c. David says something to the effect of: "I can't do anything right."
- B. Are you aware of your sins?

## REVELATION, v 6

- A. David knows that God desires purity in the inward part of man.
- B. The only way for David to have that inner cleansing was for God to teach him—David asks God to help him know wisdom in the inner parts.
  - 1. The only way for David to have this wisdom would be through divine revelation.
  - 2. The only way we can have wisdom is through divine revelation.
    - a. A young man can cleanse his way by heeding God's Word (Ps 119:9).
    - b. Obeying the truth purifies our souls (1 Pt 1:22).
  - 3. Illustration about Pitcairn Islands, *Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations*, #1847.

## REJOICING, vv 7-9

- A. David asks God to cleanse him from his sin, v 7.
  - 1. He asks to be purged with hyssop.
    - a. Priests sprinkled cleansed lepers with hyssop (Lev 14:2-9).
    - b. David asks for this symbolic cleansing of his sin.
  - 2. He wants to be whiter than snow.
    - a. Garments which were clean were said to be whiter than snow.
    - b. This saying came to be applied to lives that were pure.
- B. When David knows that he has forgiveness, he will rejoice, v 8.
  - 1. David asks to hear joy & gladness.
    - a. After Nathan came to David, David had no joy—He was forced to recognize his sin & the coming death of his son.
    - b. Now, David pleads for joy.
  - 2. David pleads that the bones God has crushed might rejoice.
    - a. David here pictures God's judgment as the crushing of bones.
    - b. David asks that his judgment might be turned into joy.
  - 3. When our sins are forgiven, we have every right to rejoice.
    - a. Jesus told the seventy to rejoice that their names were written in heaven (Lk 10:20).
    - b. After his baptism, the eunuch went on his way rejoicing (Acts 8:39).

## **RENEWAL, vv 10-11**

- A. David asks God to make him a different person, v 10.
  - 1. David asks God for a clean heart & a new and right spirit.
    - a. A clean heart is one which isn't clouded by sin—this is a soul that has been purified.
    - b. We need God to cleanse our hearts.
      - 1) The blood of Christ cleanses our consciences (Heb 9:14).
      - 2) The Corinthian Christians had been cleansed (1 Cor 6:11).
    - c. We need new hearts, for from our heart “spring the issues of life” (Prov 4:23).
  - 2. When we become Christians, everything becomes new (2 Cor 5:7).
- B. He asks to be accepted by God, v 11.
  - 1. Taking God's Spirit from someone signified God's removal of pleasure from that person.
    - a. When Saul was rejected from being king, the Spirit left him (1 Sm 16:14).
    - b. David knows that if God removes his Spirit that God has removed his pleasure.
  - 2. Do you have a renewal?

## **CONCLUSION**

- A. When David has what every sinner needs, he's going to serve God.
  - 1. He will teach sinners (v 13).
  - 2. He will worship & praise God (v 15).
- B. Do you have what every sinner needs?
  - 1. Are you teaching sinners?
  - 2. Are you praising God?