

Honest with God: Confess (Week 1)

July 8 & 11, 2010

Psalm 51

Introduction:

- Awesome week of camp...you'd be proud of your Sr. Pastor :)
 - boys cabin
 - swing
- Moment of Prayer
- Honest with God - This series:
 - Messy, not clean, well worded prayers, but honest, heart wrenching, heart felt, prayers!
 - Encouraged to pray
 - Honest with God in your prayers
 - Honest with yourselves in your prayers

- C.H.A.T. (Confess / Honor / Ask / Thank) - Prayer Coach by James Nicodem

- Today is about confessing or confession...It's the cleanest way to begin your prayers with God, being honest about your sin. In a world that is constantly wanting you to only see the best of yourself, that you have to be nice to yourself...this lends us to rationalize sin, excuse sin, ignore it, blame our issues, mistakes, problems...SIN on someone or something else!

One author put it this way...

"Part of our mess is not knowing we are a mess!" - Mark McMinn

When sin goes unconfessed:

- Hinders our prayers
- Hinders our growth
- Harms relationships
- causes depression & anxiety
- Hinders our worship
- can lead to a downward spiral of more sin
- costs you everything

Psalm 51 - Intro: Written in a response to Nathan's rebuke found in 2 Samuel 12

- David in 2 Sam. 11
 - Lusts
 - Commits adultery
 - arranges a murder (several)
- Bathsheba gives birth to a son...But God is displeased with what David had done.
- Nathan in 2 Sam. 12
 - uses a story...why? Approaching someone to correct them and set them straight should be done with wisdom!
 - David & Bathsheba were punished for that sin

7 Psalms that are called “Penitential Psalms” (6, 25, 32, 38, 51, 130, 143)

1) Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. 2) Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin.

- It's because of God's mercy, unfailing love, great compassion...that our sins are forgiven...NOT because of who we are, or the good we may do, not because we deserve any of this!
- You are not apologizing to God...yes, there is remorse, regret on your part...but you need to confess this sin and asked to be washed clean!

3) For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. 4) Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just.

- Some of you, I KNOW, live with sin, maybe something you fail to confess or perhaps you think God is not big enough to handle...and it haunts you! It over runs your thoughts and emotions.
- David's sins: lust, sexually exploited, killed Uriah, betrayed his people, messed up his family, lied to everyone to cover it up...all the human connections...but our sin is against God...HE alone is the one who determines what is good or evil and it's against him that we sin.
- RECOGNITION is HUGE! What are your sins? This takes quiet moments, prayer, reflection, help?
- Nathan was person in David's life, willing to call him out? Who can call you out?
- Does anyone enjoy a good rebuke?

5) For I was born a sinner—yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. 6) But you desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there.

- This a recognition that we have a sin nature, our humanity, our existence begins in a fallen sinful world! From the very beginning we are sinners!
- the ESV puts v. 6 this way: “Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.”
- The idea David is getting at is that our actions and words flow from our inward self, our hearts...we must be honest with ourselves and with God!
- How do we go beyond the surface of our hearts...racking our brains for the truth of how we've treated God? Been Honest with God?
 - Our emotions (they tell on us) - anger, guilt, sadness, loneliness, fear...while you may just look at these as “negative emotions” - we are so quick to say “Where's your joy?” God has given us these emotions as indicators of something going on in our hearts. Our inmost beings.
 - Write it down, talk with someone, read the Word, pray for discovery, search is such an active word!

7) Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. 8) Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me—now let me rejoice. 9) Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt.

- Purge me with “hyssop” - ceremonial washing and removal of sins?
- Do you trust, believe that God is big enough to wash away your sins? Not, do you deserve it? Or, have you earned it? But do you believe that God can wash your sins away? Make you clean?
- Until you do...you will have little to no joy? (depression)
- We are not talking about covering it up, sweeping it under the rug...this is stain removal, WHITE AS SNOW!

10) Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. 11) Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me. 12) Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.

- Don't just confess and then go back to the way it was...fix your soul and spirit, aim your life back towards God. Ask Him for the Holy Spirit to guide, direct and strengthen you! His presence and Spirit are needed for you to have joy and confidence that you are saved.

- I hope this is making sense to you...what do we believe when we are knee-deep in sin? Where is God? I don't feel His presence? We question our salvation? We even begin to think it doesn't matter how we live!

- It's why being Honest with God, Honest with ourselves is so vital!

13) Then I will teach your ways to rebels, and they will return to you. 14) Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves; then I will joyfully sing of your forgiveness. 15) Unseal my lips, O Lord, that my mouth may praise you.

- This is a response to the cleansing, washing and forgiveness of sin:

- Tell everyone the joy you have!

- Praise God for salvation and forgiveness

- This is why we begin prayer with "Confess"

- It establishes a proper connection - we position ourselves for a good connection
[cell phone in my office]

16) You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. 17) The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.

- What is God's desire for you and I? A broken spirit! Not pride! Not self-esteem! God-esteem!

- A repentant heart - is a heart that is constantly in the act of turning towards God

- When we sin...we confess. We ask God to set us straight!

Take Aways:

1) Sin has consequences - David & Bathsheba's first child.

2) God forgives - 1 John 1:9

3) Confession Helps - Journal / Accountability