

# True Repentance

“God of the Prodigals” Series- Part 2

**Connect:** Describe a time when you tried to hide a wrong (sin) that you had committed against another person. How successful or unsuccessful were you in hiding the sin?

## Hook:

Many live in depression, discouragement, and defeat because of unconfessed sin. The consequences of wrong choices reverberate in their lives and burden them like an unrelenting taskmaster. Even if they believe God’s willingness to forgive, many people reason that He could never use them in service.

In the story of “The Prodigals”, we find that the brother, who had sinned against his father and wasted his inheritance, finally came “to his senses”. After a period of immense misery, he realized it was better to go home to his father, confess his wrong, and serve him as a slave, than to stay in his current situation. The brother repented...made an about face and went back to his father to seek forgiveness.

In our study today, we’ll look at another man, who by today’s standard, had it all. He had power, wealth, respect, love, and a deep relationship with God. Despite these advantages, King David fell into sin, and spent his own time in the “pig pen” before he found his way back home.

## Book:

His prayer of repentance is found in Psalm 51:

**For the choir director: A psalm of David, regarding the time Nathan the prophet came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.**

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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.

**Look:**

1. In this psalm, David cried out to God in confession. On what basis did David ask for forgiveness? (v.1)

2. Against whom did David say he had sinned (v.4)? Why did he not mention his sin against Bathsheba and her husband?

3. In v.10-12 David petitioned God for certain things. Make a list of what he requested of God.

4. In Matthew 3:8, John the Baptist told his audience that they should “*Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God.*” Another translation says this: *Bring forth fruit that is consistent with repentance [let your lives prove your change of heart];* -Amplified Bible

In Psalm 51, what fruit does David express that shows true repentance?

5. It took David at least 9 months (after his son to Bathsheba was born) before he sought repentance and forgiveness from God. Why do you think it took him so long?

**Making it personal:**

1. What strategies have you employed to ignore unconfessed sin?
2. What sin are you currently toiling under that you keep hidden from others?
3. What would God have you to do with your unconfessed sin?
4. Who do you need to share the truths from this lesson with this week?