SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: How to Come Back When You’re Down

SERMON REFERENCE: Psalm 51

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1730

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1) INTRODUCTION
   a) The devil will tempt us to sin, and he will say that we can get away with it.
      i) He is the tempter.
   b) Then, after we sin, he becomes the accuser.
      i) He then says that we will never get away with it.
   c) The devil wants to get us off balance and get us out of the will of God.
      i) He wants to bring discouragement to us and make us feel as though we can never again come back.
   d) Psalm 51 is the story of David's repentance after he had sinned.
      i) David committed adultery and then tried to cover it up.
         (1) At best, he committed manslaughter; at worst, he committed cold-blooded murder.
      ii) This is the Psalm of a penitent.
         (1) Not only was David a great sinner, but he was also a great repenter.
   e) Today's message will show us three basic things as we learn from the life of David and Psalm 51.

2) THE CAPABILITY OF SIN IN THE SAINT
   a) Any of us have the capability to sin.
   b) We don't lose our capacity to sin when we get saved.
      i) Many times, sin in the saint is an unexpected opportunity and an undetected weakness.
      ii) 1 John 1:8
   c) When a child of God sins, that sin cannot take away his salvation.
      i) But that does not mean that he can sin with impunity.
         (1) If you are bound to sin, then you are bound to suffer.
         (2) Proverbs 30:33
            (a) As surely as the churning of milk brings forth butter and the wringing of the nose brings forth blood, if you are bound to sin, then you are bound to suffer.
   d) The eternal security of the believer is in no way to be construed as a license to sin.
   e) Whether you are saved or whether you are lost, suffering accompanies sin.

3) THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN (PSALM 51:1-15)
   a) Psalm 51:1-2
   b) Sin soils the soul.
      i) This is the first consequence of sin in the life of a child of God.
      ii) Psalm 51:2
         (1) David felt dirty and filthy.
            (a) This is one way we can know that we're saved.
            (i) Does your sin make you feel dirty?
         iii) There is a difference between a child of God and a child of the devil.
            (1) The child of the devil sins, and it doesn't bother him.
(a) He has no difficulty with sin.
(2) A sheep may fall in the mud, and he wants to get out.
(3) A pig will lie in the mud because that's his nature.
   (a) He doesn't feel dirty.
(4) The child of God may lapse into sin, and he loathes it.
(5) The child of the devil leaps into sin, and he loves it.
iv) If you can sin and that sin doesn't make you feel grimy and dirty, then you may have never been saved.
c) Sin saturates the mind.
i) Psalm 51:3
   (1) The thing that David had done reverberated through his soul and echoed through his conscience.
      (a) He could not get rid of it.
   (2) It was an indelible mark and saturated his mind.
ii) If you can sin and easily forget it, then you may not have been saved.
iii) “My sin is ever before me.”
   (1) It may not be in your conscience mind continually, but it will be in your subconscious.
   (2) It may show up as a migraine headache, an inability to concentrate, an irritable temper, or as an inability to pray.
v) There are two kinds of wounds that can come to the human psyche:
   (1) Guilt
      (a) Guilt is a dirty wound.
      (b) It festers and festers and will never heal until it is cleansed.
   (2) Sorrow
      (a) Sorrow is a clean wound.
      (b) Because it is a clean wound, it will heal.
d) Sin stings the conscience.
i) Psalm 51:4
   (1) David is not crying out against the punisher but against the sin.
   (2) David sinned against his kingdom, against his body, against his wife, and against his children, but what bothered David primarily was that he had sinned against God.
      (1) He was a child of God.
      (2) David saw his sin for what it really was: an affront to a Holy God.
iii) If all you're afraid of is the punishment for your sin, then you may never have been saved.
   (1) As a child of God, you don't weep over your sin primarily because you're going to be punished, but because you have disgraced your God.
iv) There is a difference between a slave and a son.
   (1) When a slave disobeys, he fears the whip (his master's lash).
   (2) When a son disobeys (if he's a loving son), he fears the father's displeasure.
v) David is brokenhearted that he has broken the heart of God.
e) Sin saddens the heart.
i) Psalm 51:8
ii) Psalm 51:12
   (1) He is not asking to have his salvation restored.
       (a) We can be saved and miserable.
       (b) The most miserable man on Earth is not an unsaved man.
           (i) Many unsaved people are living high, wide and handsome.
           (ii) The Bible speaks of the pleasures of sin, though they are only for a season.
               1. Hebrews 11:25
   (2) David is praying for his joy to be restored.
       (a) The most miserable man on Earth is a saved man out of fellowship with God.
       (b) When God saves us, He doesn’t fix us where we can’t sin anymore.
           (i) He fixes us where we can’t sin and enjoy it anymore.
iii) If you want to know whether or not you are backslidden, or whether or not you are saved or lost, do you have joy in your heart?
   (1) Do you have joy unspeakable and full of glory?
   (2) Joy does best in the tough times.
       (a) Philippians 4:4
           (i) He doesn’t say to be happy always.
               1. Happiness depends upon what happens.
               2. Joy depends upon Jesus.
   (3) Happiness is like a thermometer.
       (a) It registers conditions.
   (4) Joy is like a thermostat.
       (a) It controls conditions.
   (5) It’s the joy of the Lord that is your strength.
       (a) Nehemiah 8:10
   (6) Joy never changes.
   (7) We are to have joy all the time.
iv) There is one thing that can take away joy.
   (1) It’s not circumstances but sin.
       (a) And only one kind of sin: yours.
           (i) Nobody else’s sin can take away your joy.
           (ii) An ungodly government cannot take away your joy.
               1. They didn’t give it to you.
               2. Jesus gives joy.
v) Joy does not remove pain, but it helps us endure the pain.
vi) If the joy is not there, it is because we are not abiding in the Lord Jesus Christ.
   (1) Someone has well said that joy is the flag that is flown from the castle of the heart when the king is in residence.
f) Sin sickens the body.
   i) Psalm 51:8
      (1) David is using poetry here and talking in poetic terms.
      (2) He is saying that God has him under extreme pressure.
         (a) Sometimes people think that God will just cast us off if we sin.
            (i) On the contrary, He squeezes all the tighter.
   ii) The pressure of sin can make you sick.
      (1) Many children of God are sicker than they ought to be.
   iii) There are many reasons for sickness, but one reason is sin in the life of a child of God.
      (1) 1 Corinthians 11:30
         (a) Paul was speaking about some who were irreverent at the Lord's table.
         (b) Sometimes, you can even get sick unto death.
         (c) The term “sleep” in this passage is used for the death of a child of God, not for the death of an unsaved person.
   iv) Proverbs 17:22
      (1) When we are right with God, we smile more, we sleep better, we stand straighter, we digest our food better, etc.
      (2) A merry heart is one of the best medicines we can take.
         (a) But we can't have the joy of the Lord if we are backslidden, walking away from God.

g) Sin sours the spirit.
   i) Psalm 51:10
      (1) David had a wrong spirit.
   ii) Those who have a sour spirit are the most critical persons in our churches.
      (1) They are backslidden.
      (2) No dish on the table looks good to a person with a sour stomach.
      (3) They find fault everywhere with everything.
   iii) David committed adultery and then, trying to cover it up, he committed manslaughter.
      (1) Nathan the prophet came to speak to David about his sin.
         (a) 2 Samuel 12:1-7
            (i) The lamb in this analogy was Bathsheba.
         (2) David was quick to judge a man whom he thought had stolen a lamb, but he had stolen another man's wife.
         (3) David was quick to judge a man he thought had killed an animal, but he had killed another human being.
         (4) Those who are backslidden tend to judge people for less sin than they have in their own lives.
            (a) Matthew 7:3-4
   h) Sin seals his lips.
   i) Psalm 51:12-15
iii) In this passage, David says that he will be a soul winner and a singer and will praise when he gets right.
iv) When a person is backslidden, as a general rule, singing just stops.
   1) Hey may sing, but it doesn't come from his heart.
   2) Praise withers, and soul winning stops altogether.
   a) The devil accuses us, saying, “Who are you to be testifying and telling someone else they need to be saved when you are such a miserable example and have no joy or peace or real assurance in your own heart and life?”
v) The devil intimidates so many people because there is sin in their hearts and lives.

4) HOW DO WE COME BACK?
a) Confidence
   i) We must have confidence that God still loves us.
   ii) Psalm 51:1
      1) David had confidence in his God.
      2) David knew that for a multitude of sins, there were a multitude of tender mercies.
      3) David knew that he was a sinner, and he knew that God was full of lovingkindness.
   iii) The devil will tell you that there is no hope for you and that God is finished with you, but that is a lie.
      1) There is nothing you can do that will make God stop loving you.
   iv) For great sin there is great grace.

b) Confession
   i) Psalm 51:3–4
   ii) 1 John 1:9
   iii) It's not just an admission of sin; it's a confession.
   iv) God will not accept an excuse or an alibi.
   v) A confession means to agree with God.
   vi) God wants us to confess it.
   vii) When we try to cover it, God uncovers it.
      1) When we uncover it, God covers it.

c) Cleansing
   i) God cleanses and forgives.
   ii) Psalm 51:2, 7
   iii) God blots out our transgressions.
      1) He removes the penalty of sin.
      2) He erases the record.
      3) It's gone.
      a) If anybody ever brings it up again, it's the devil bringing it up or our conscience bringing it up.
(b) God does not bring it up.
   (i) He blots it out.
iv) God not only removes the penalty, but He also removes the pollution.
   (1) David says, “Wash me.”
      (a) Psalm 51:2
   (2) God gets the filth off us.
      (a) We're clean; we're whiter than snow.
         (i) We are not just patched up.
   (3) God has forgotten the sin, and it is gone.
   (4) 1 John 1:9
      (a) The blood of Jesus cleanses us from ALL sin.
v) God purges us on the inside.
   (1) He removes the power of sin.
   (2) David says, “Purge me.”
      (a) Psalm 51:7
   (3) We do not need to go around with a load of guilt anymore.
   (4) We do not need to carry all of that condemnation that Satan has put on us.

5) CONCLUSION
   a) If you're a child of God and have been intimidated by Satan, come to the Lord today with honest confidence and confession and experience His cleansing.
   b) If you don't know Jesus yet as your Lord and Savior, you can.
   c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      i) Romans 3:23
      ii) Romans 10:9-10
      iii) Romans 10:13
      iv) Acts 16:31
      v) John 3:16