

## SERMON OUTLINE

<b>SERMON TITLE:</b>	How to Come Back When You're Down
<b>SERMON REFERENCE:</b>	Psalms 51
<b>LWF SERMON NUMBER:</b>	#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.
  - iv) 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.
  - ii) 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

- ii) Sin in the life of a Christian shuts his mouth.
  - 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