

# **THE SACRIFICE OF A BROKEN SPIRIT**

## **PSALM 51**

**Need: We need to offer to God a broken and contrite spirit.**

**Proposition: A broken spirit is a prerequisite for the favor of God upon our lives and ministry.**

**Objective: To lead God's people to accept a broken spirit from the Lord so they can offer it to the Lord as a sacrifice.**

### **Introduction:**

Because of the mercy of the Lord, we often learn more about ourselves and the Lord in our times of failure than we do in our times of success. This was definitely true for David. It was in his time of shameful failure that he learned what the Lord really wants in us.

The story of his failure is familiar, it was a matter of a man allowing his success to dull his sensitivity to sin, pride deceiving him to believe that he was different from other men.

### **I. THE BROKEN SPIRIT IS THE RESULT OF GOD'S WORK IN US.**

#### **1. By confronting us with the truth about ourselves.**

God sent Nathan to make a pastoral visit after David's sin. He told David a little story about a greedy man who took the favorite little lamb of a poor

neighbor to make a meal for some guests. He did this in spite of the fact he had a large flock. David was totally outraged at the sin of the greedy man only to be told that he was the man. He was forced to look at himself as God saw him. It forced him to look within.

His discovery? “Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful at the time my mother conceived me.” His adultery with Bathsheba, and his sin against Uriah were not aberrations. Rather they were simply expressions of a corruption that had been in his heart since before he was born. Understanding this will break your pride, and give an humble spirit.

2. By convincing us of the wrong we have done.

David used all of the classical words for sin in this prayer. It is

Transgression—a breaking of the law of God.

Iniquity—a perversion, something that is twisted, ugly.

Sin—a missing of the mark. It is out of character for one who knows God.

“Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight., so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.”

3. By applying discipline through affliction.

“Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.”

II. THE BROKEN HEART IS THE APPROPRIATE SACRIFICE  
FOR THE TRANSGRESSOR.

1. The old sacrifices are not adequate for our sin.

David discovered that going through the temple rituals did not bring forgiveness. The blood of an innocent animal would not bring restoration to the favor of God. God requires something that goes deeper, something that comes from the heart.

2. God will be pleased with sacrifice of a broken spirit.

- A. Broken in spirit like the strong horse that is broken to its master.

- B. Broken like a businessman who has come to bankruptcy.

### III. THE SACRIFICE OF A BROKEN SPIRIT BRINGS THE FAVOR OF THE LORD.

1. There will be the joy of divine approval.
2. There will be the joy of restored fellowship.

“For this is what the high and lofty One says—he who lives forever, whose name is holy: I live in a high and holy place, and also with who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and revive the heart of the contrite.” (Isaiah 57:15)

“This is what the Lord says: ‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will be my

resting place? Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?’ declares the Lord. The is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.” (Isaiah 66:2)

3. There will be the joy of restored usefulness.

“Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight you; then bulls will be offered on your altar.”

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you.”

God prepares the sacrifice of the broken spirit.

We offer the sacrifice of the broken spirit.

God blesses the sacrifice of the broken spirit.