



SONGS FOR A BROKEN WORLD

6. When we break ourselves
by sin
Psalm 51

- Sometimes our sins are the cause of our problems
- Psalm 51 is tied to events in 2 Sam 11 & 12

1. **We need to face our Sin v1-6**

- Sin vandalises shalom (peace, the way things are supposed to be)
- David comes to the point where he sees sin through God's eyes
 - Sin is Overstepping the Mark (v1b - Transgression)**
 - Knowing where the line is and defiantly stepping over it
 - God draws a protective circle around people & things
 - Sin is Distorting something Beautiful (v2a - Iniquity)**
 - Made to know God, we set our hearts on something else
 - Made to express right emotions, we take them too far
 - Sin is Falling short of the Mark (v2b - Sin)**
 - Failing to be righteous in all our words, actions, emotions, thoughts
 - Failure to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength
 - Sin is Idolatry (v4)**
 - We sin when anything becomes more important to us than God
 - Hence David sees sin as primarily against God
- No excuses – doesn't blame culture, Bathsheba, or his legitimate wife

2. **We need to relish God's forgiveness v7-12**

- The whole Psalm cries out for Jesus
- We can be honest about sin because we have a solution to sin
- When we realise our sin, we need to look for forgiveness, and relish it
- Relishing forgiveness strengthens our assurance and our resolve
 - Forgiveness is like someone else paying – v 7a**
 - Hyssop – used to sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice (Exodus)
 - Forgiveness is like the washing of dirty clothes – v7b**
 - Done in 'unfailing love' – 'whiter than snow'
 - Forgiveness is like hearing someone say 'It's alright' – v8**
 - Forgiveness is hearing God's word speak peace to our hearts
 - Forgiveness is like wiping the slate clean – v9**
 - Our account with God is cleared – Col 2:14
- Forgiveness is no light thing – someone else has to die, get dirty, be forsaken, held accountable
- Great hope because forgiveness was purchased at such a great price



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3. **We get to serve the forgiving God v13-17**

- Has David blown it? Is there a place for hopeless sinners?
- Yes – forgiven people are perfect for speaking about forgiveness
- Note the order – service comes after forgiveness – “Then I will...” v13
- David's prayer is a realisation that he can be restored to usefulness
- The more we dwell on our forgiveness, the more we will want to speak/sing about it

4. **We develop a Kingdom Vision v18-19**

- Sin isn't only personal, it has community effects
- The church suffers when the believer continues in sin
- Repentance brings blessing to the individual and the church
- It also brings a greater concern for the state of the church
- We will pray that God will 'build up the walls of Jerusalem'
- We will pray that people will come and offer themselves sacrificially in God's service.
- Dwelling on the Cross is the key assurance, service, evangelism and vision