

Psalm 51

“A Psalm of David **when** Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.”

2 Samuel 11–12

“I have sinned against the LORD” (2 Sam. 12:13).

David's Plea for Mercy (1–2)

(1) Be **gracious** to me, O God, according to Your **lovingkindness**; According to the **greatness** of Your **compassion** blot out my **transgressions**. (2) Wash me thoroughly from my **iniquity** and cleanse me from my **sin**.

David's Confession (3–6)

(3) For I know my transgressions, And my sin is **ever before me**. (4) Against **You, You only**, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, **So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge**. (5) Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. (6) Behold, You desire truth in the **innermost being**, And in the **hidden part** You will make me know wisdom.

David's Plea for Full Forgiveness (7–9)

(7) Purify me with **hyssop**, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be **whiter than snow**. (8) Make me to hear **joy and gladness**, Let the bones which You have broken **rejoice**. (9) **Hide Your face from my sins** And blot out **all** my iniquities.

David's Plea for a New Beginning (10–12)

(10) Create in me a **clean heart**, O God, And **renew a steadfast spirit** within me. (11) Do not cast me away from Your presence **And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me**. (12) Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And **sustain me with a willing spirit**.

David's Repentance (13–17)

(13) *Then* I will **teach** transgressors Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You. (14) Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; *Then* my tongue will joyfully **sing** of Your righteousness. (15) O Lord, open my lips, That my mouth may **declare Your praise**. (16) For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. (17) The sacrifices of God are a **broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart**, O God, You will not despise.

David's Plea for Zion (18–19)

(18) By Your favor do good to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. (19) Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices, In burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then young bulls will be offered on Your altar.