

Introduction

1. One of the greatest statements in all of Scripture was said of King David.
 - a. The Lord said about him that he was a man **after God's own heart** (1 Samuel 13:14).
 - b. What a statement! David's heart beat w/God's heart. God's desires were his desires.
2. But then we say, **Wait a minute! How could a man after God's heart sin like David did?**
 - a. How could a heart after God's commit adultery, murder & cover-up? Doesn't add up.
 - b. When David faced the full enormity of his sin, it broke his heart like it did God's.
 - c. The reason David was a man after God's own heart is that he became a broken man.
3. Did you know that God highly esteems brokenness in sinners? Isaiah 66:2 (**show**)
 - a. The word **contrite** in Scripture often means to be broken (see Psalm 51:17).
 - b. It was used of a broken bone that has become weak, shattered, and devastated.
 - c. God loves to see that in sinners—that our sin breaks our hearts like it does His.
 - d. In fact w/o it you can't be forgiven. **Brokenness prepares for forgiveness.**
4. (**Show title/text**). Last wk = blessing of forgiveness. Today = blessing of brokenness.
5. What is involved in being broken?
 - I. **Brokenness Means To Feel The Sting of our Sin (v. 3).**
 - A. **V. 3 Describes David's Conscience**
 1. This is where brokenness begins, with the sting of conscience over sin.
 2. V. 3 is one of the most vivid & powerful descriptions of the working of conscience.
 - B. **The Marks of a Healthy Conscience – Psalm 51:3 (show)**
 1. **A healthy conscience alerts you to sin.**
 - a. **Before me** = what is conspicuous, in front of, in sight of; mentally, = vividly present to¹
 - b. It is a perfect description of the conscience that alerts us to the presence of sin.
 - c. A healthy conscience is like nerve endings in your fingers sensitive to pain.
 2. **A healthy conscience pesters you about sin.**
 - a. For a whole year David had tried to cover up his sin and hide it.
 - b. He evidently hardened his heart and rationalized what he had done.
 - i. But his conscience would not let him alone. **Always = day and night (NLT)**.
 - ii. **Always** = used in Bible of night watchman always at his post (Isa. 21:8).
 - iii. **A bad conscience is a snake in one's heart** (Jewish proverb).²
 - iv. If had snake in heart, keep striking & striking & striking causing sharp pain.
 - c. When conscience is healthy no matter how try ignore, keeps hammering away.
 3. **A healthy conscience blames you for sin. (Emphasis on you.)**
 - a. **Before me** can have the sense of **against me** as an accusing witness.³

¹Brown, F., Driver, S. R., & Briggs, C. A. 2000. *Enhanced Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Copyright 2000 by Logos Research Systems, Inc. (electronic ed.)

²Edythe Draper, *Draper's Book of Quotations for the Christian World* (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1992). Entries 1650-1654.

³Job 10:17. See Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon, p. 617-1aa.

- b. Conscience like an eye-witness. (**show**)⁴ Won't let you rationalize or make excuses.
- c. **I know my transgressions = I myself know my transgressions** (NASB footnote).
 - i. In Hebrew you don't need to write the personal pronoun "I" cause in verb form.
 - ii. When you add the "I" separately, you are drawing special attention to yourself.⁵
 - iii. The concept is really "I, I myself confess my sin."
- d. So effective was David's conscience he finally broke down taking total blame.

4. A healthy conscience **restores** you from sin.

- a. This = good news. When your conscience alerts you, pesters you, blames you,
- b. You can't take it anymore. You can't bear it. And God says, **Come on! Come on!**
- c. **Cry out! I confess my transgressions.** Barry Bonds not conscience like this.⁶
- d. Those = words of sick conscience. Because others sinned, my sin = excusable.
- e. Cause others do wrong so can I. When does being as bad as others excuse ME?

II. Brokenness Means To Confess The **Seriousness** of Your Sin (v. 4).

A. **Why Is Sin So Serious?** – Psalm 51:4

- 1. **Sin turns us against God** (v. 4a).
- 2. **Sin turns God against us** (v. 4b).
 - a. Once David admitted he was guilty, he knew God had every right to judge him.
 - b. David is saying, **I deserve whatever sentence you hand out to me.**
 - c. Sin is so serious because there are only two alternatives: forgive or judge.

B. **How can he say this?**

- 1. *I thot he had sinned against just about everybody, including Uriah, Bathsheba, nation, & himself.*⁷
- 2. A whole lot of people got hurt by what David did. And that's the point.
- 3. When we sin other people get hurt, but it's God whose laws we break.
 - a. The alcoholic hurts his family, but he sins against God. The robber hurts his neighbor, but he sins against God. The adulterer violates his wife, but he sins against God. The gossip betrays her friend, but she sins against God. The disobedient hurt their parents, but they sin against God. The foul-mouthed offend their co-workers, but they sin against God.
 - b. **David = proper concept sin. Regarded as something against God 1st & foremost.**⁸
- 4. The old timers used to call this being under conviction. Prayed for this in church.

III. Brokenness Means To Face The **Source** of Your Sin (v. 5).

A. **David Goes Even Deeper.**

- 1. He confesses not only he has sinned, but he is a sinner.
- 2. This is one of the clearest statements in the Bible on doctrine of original sin.

⁴ <http://mydailyusing.com/uploads/conscience.jpg>. Accessed 5/6/16. Letter "o" in conscience drawn as an eye.

⁵ Putnam, F. C. 2002, *Hebrew Bible Insert*. Stylus Publishing: Quakertown, PA

⁶ Bonds allegedly used steroids and amassed many of his home runs not by hard work but by illegal drugs. One day in front of a group of reporters who asked him about it on TV, he defiantly responded, **You all have dirt in your closets. Every one of you. Until you clean up the dirt in your closets, you don't have the right to ask me about the dirt in my closet.**

⁷ Vance Havner, *When God Breaks Through, Sermons on Revival in PulpitHelps*, vol. 28, #5, 5/03, p. 24.

⁸ Ibid.

- a. **Conceive** = 1st moment of pregnancy, **conception**. David is teaching two things:
 - i. #1: Life begins at conception. David was not pro-choice. He was pro-life.⁹
 - ii. #2: The life that is conceived in the womb is corrupted with a sinful nature.
- b. David realized sin goes beyond the act that's wrong to the nature that is wrong.
- c. Bible = don't become sinners because we sin, but we sin because we're sinners.

B. Huge Difference Between the Two?

1. Unless we feel our vry nature is corrupted we will never seek a radical change fr. God.
2. Unless see the very well of our lives is polluted we will never see how serious sin is.
3. Present-day religion far too often soothes the conscience instead of awakening it; & produces a sense of self-satisfaction & eternal safety rather than a sense of our unworthiness.¹⁰
4. There IS eternal safety for all believers. But can **NEVER** come from self-satisfaction.
5. Can only come from conscience awakened to need & sought forgiveness in Christ.

IV. **Brokenness Means To Find The *Solution* To Your Sin (v. 6).**

A. The Wonderful Climax to Brokenness

1. ***A heart that delights in truth (v. 6a).***
2. ***A heart that is taught truth (v. 6b).***

B. Only God Can Give These.

1. ***Inward being*** = heart, conscience and the inner life.
2. David is talking here about a cleansed conscience and changed heart.
3. Only God can give these and He does when He forgives the broken.

Conclusion

1. Do you agree with this? ***God truly forgives a repentant heart? (show)***
2. I went to Promise Keepers in Indianapolis, knowing God was going to deal with me in an area I had held on to for over a year. It's tragic to admit, but I had been unfaithful to my wife. Sure enough, God told me to tell her. I was frightened by the thought, yet I knew I had to tell her.
3. When I arrived home, after trying to ignore the conviction of the Holy Spirit, I acted upon God's promise, and I told my wife. It was the hardest thing I've ever had to do, but God has been faithful.
4. My wife was very hurt and is still going through the process of healing, but she is committed to our marriage. God truly forgives a repentant heart. God honored my honesty. I had to be anchored in him to survive the storm that followed, but if I wanted to reach the full potential that a godly marriage has to offer, I had to confess, both to God and to my wife.¹¹

⁹ Note that "birth" & "conceived" are parallel here. David equates the two. He was a person at both times.

¹⁰ Martyn Lloyd-Jones in Swindoll, C. R. (2016). "Conscience," *The Tale of the Tardy Oxcart and 1501 Other Stories*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, p. 116.

¹¹ A promise keeper in Tennessee. *Men of Integrity*, Vol. 1, no. 2.

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