



Face the Issue:

We wrap up our series on The Tales of David this week. We have learned that David was not a man of perfection, but at his core, David had a passionate love for, and reliance upon, God: “David sang to the Lord ... ‘The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. ... I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise...’” (2 Samuel 22:1–4).

What stories of the life of David have most challenged or encouraged you?

What is your favorite Psalm? Why?

In what ways does David’s life point us to Christ?

Into the Word:

Have you ever been surprised to see a child who has just been disciplined turn and jump into his father or mother’s arms and hold on for dear life? Or have you had your child confess her sin and throw herself on your mercy? Those are encouraging moments that show a contrite and tender heart. They also show a sense of trust, and that the child is more concerned about the relationship than having been caught in a wrong. David’s sins are calculated and horrifying, but he runs back to God despite the consequences. We should seek God, even in our sin, rather than run away and hide in shame. Worse than any consequences is separation from God.

In most of our sermon guides we have looked at parallel passages or stories that reinforce the points of Jeremy’s sermons. In this guide we are going to dig deeper into the passage that Jeremy used in his sermon.

Read Psalm 51.

Is it arrogant for David to think he could approach God like this after the sin he had committed? What does this Psalm tell you about David’s God?

How could David pray what he does in verse 4 in light of all the wrecked lives? What does that tell us about all sin?

What does David request of God in verses 7–12? List all of his requests.

What does David say will be the result of his restoration (vv. 13–17)?

In verses 18–19, why does David bring the whole nation before God?

Our individual sin affects the whole community. How might even secret sin affect your church community? A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Is there any truth to this in a spiritual community?

When you've sinned, what "burnt offerings" do you try to offer God (v. 16)?

Apply The Word

David was "a man after God's own heart." It can be a struggle to reconcile this title with the evil he did. But the point of Scripture is not primarily to provide moral role models, but to reveal a sovereign, powerful, satisfying, merciful God—a holy God. David's passionate life points us toward a life of trusting, seeking, and worshiping this God.

What strikes you most about David's life before God?

How do you maintain a passion for God, like David's?

Evaluate the things that give you confidence. Have any impostors taken over the throne of your trust in God?

Confess your sin to God and to anyone else you have wronged. What sin have you kept secret? Enjoy the restoration you crave from God.

Write a psalm to God this week. Express your passionate heart toward God. Give thanks to God in order to combat discontentment. Not a confident writer? Take one of David's psalms and substitute your own words.