

Where Have All The Mighty Gone? Pastor Jon Laurenzo 08.03.2025

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[2 Samuel 12:1-12] ESV

And the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds, but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the quest who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him. "Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity. "Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun."

REPENTANCE

"The most common Heb. words for repentance are from the root naham and signify a change of mind or purpose, or sometimes, being sorry. The NT concept, however, is more nearly expressed by the Heb. verb shûb, which means "to turn," or "return,"

[Psalm 51:1-5] ESV

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

"Repentance begins with feeling the weight"

[Psalm 51:6] ESV

Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

"Sin saps the secret place of its power"

[Psalm 51:7-9] ESV

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

[Psalm 51:10-12] ESV

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.

[Psalm 51:13-17] ESV

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise

How do we create a REPEATABLE lifestyle of Repentance?

1. Moments of honesty with God

[Psalm 139:23-24] NIV

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.

2. Find courageous people who know the real me and can speak into my world.

[James 5.16] NIV

Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

3. Regular rhythms of uncomfortable honesty

4. Times of REFRESHING

[Acts 3:19] NIV

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord

[Psalm 51:18-19] ESV

Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem; then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

[Acts 13:22] ESV

And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.

Key Points:

- 1. We create a repeatable lifestyle of repentance through "Moments of honesty with God"
- 2. We create a repeatable lifestyle of repentance by "Finding courageous people who know the real me and can speak into my world
- 3. We create a repeatable lifestyle of repentance through "Regular rhythms of uncomfortable honest"
- **4.** We create a repeatable lifestyle of repentance through "Times of refreshing"

Applications for the Week:

David's prayer in Psalm 51 is deeply honest. When was the last time you were truly honest with God about your struggles or failures? What would it look like to have that kind of honesty with God this week?

Discussion Questions:

- 1. In 2 Samuel 12, how does Nathan confront David about his sin, and what is David's immediate response?
- 2. According to Psalm 51, what does David ask God to do for him after his failure?
- **3.** What does Pastor Jon say is the real danger of sin in our lives, and what does it rob us of?

- **4.** Why do you think David's willingness to admit his sin and turn back to God is highlighted as what made him mighty rather than him being perfect?
- **5.** Why is it important to have Nathan moments and people in our lives who can speak truth to us?
- **6.** Pastor Jon mentioned that losing our joy in God makes us vulnerable to destructive behaviors. Why do you think joy is so central to resisting temptation and living a healthy spiritual life?