

# What True Repentance Looks Like

(Psalm 51:1-17)

- Introduction:
1. (Luke 13:3,5).
  2. Repentance is probably the most difficult command of God.
  3. Because it's difficult, many have tried to substitute a "cheap substitution" for repentance.
  4. Let's examine what true repentance looks like from the life of David.

## I. True Repentance Demands We Stop...

- A. Fooling Ourselves (Psalm 51:1-4).
  1. We often use euphemisms to salve our conscience and to make ourselves believe we haven't been all that bad.
  2. Instead of calling our unrighteousness "sin," we call them "mistakes," "weaknesses," and "problems."
  3. David admits his sin no less than six times in these first four verses.
- B. Blaming Others (Psalm 51:1-4).
  1. Note verse two... "my" iniquity and "my" sin.
  2. There is no attempt to shift blame.
- C. Covering Up (Psalm 51:6).
  1. The repentant person doesn't live a double life...one for show and one for himself.
  2. God sees and knows all.

## II. True Repentance is the Beginning of...

- A. Concern for God's Presence (Psalm 51:11).
  1. The repentant person isn't absorbed in self anymore.
  2. He is now thinking about God and how his sins have affected him.
- B. Concern for Others (Psalm 51:13).
  1. Many of the staunchest advocates against various causes are former practitioners of the very things they oppose.
  2. That's because those who have learned the hard way don't want others to suffer as they did.
- C. True Joy (Psalm 51:14).
  1. When one realizes how good God has been to them and the salvation they have experienced, they cannot help but experience joy.
  2. True repentance celebrates the love and forgiveness of God.

- Conclusion:
1. Friends, don't play games with repentance.
  2. Feigning repentance will do one no good.
  3. God is not mocked (Galatians 6:7).