

The Psalms of Ascents

A Humble, Calmed and Quieted Soul (2)

Week 5 – Monday

Psa. 51:4-6, 17 – Footnotes 5¹, 6¹

After being struck by God, David repented. We can say that he learned the lesson and was humbled by this lesson. After he rose, David wrote Psalm 51 expressing his repentance. There is a small note that accompanies this psalm: “To the choir director. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bath-sheba.” This is a very famous psalm of repentance. This is a characteristic of David; after his sin was exposed, he turned and repented of his sin. It is very good to read this psalm again to touch David’s spirit and his humble heart before God. David descended into the depths because of his sin. He said, “Against You, You only, have I sinned.” He continued, “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts.” He realized, “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit.” Again he declared, “A broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise.” He surrendered both outwardly and inwardly. His spirit was a broken spirit. This kind of person will no longer stand up for himself. He has lost himself entirely in God.

There also was no peace in David’s house because of this failure. One of his sons, Absalom, rose up to rebel against David. The rebellion was very great so that David had to flee for his life from Jerusalem toward the east. There was a relative of Saul who met David and cursed him and threw stones at him while he was running for his life. David’s servants could not take it any more and said, “Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Please, let me go over and take off his head!” (2 Sam. 16:9). But David said, “Let him alone, and let him curse; for so the Lord has ordered him. It may be that the Lord will look on my affliction, and that the Lord will repay me with good for his cursing this day” (vv. 11-12). Through all these things David learned to be a humble man. He was willing to take all these situations from the Lord.