Psalms: The Greatest Hits: **After The Crash**

**150 songs from Jewish tradition – spanning 400 yrs and 10 authors.**

**Psalms are the Bible’s Spotify – we are shuffling through some of the best. This week's song is devastating and hopeful.**

**Psalms is a personal journal… especially today’s.**

**We’ve all had moments when we’ve crashed and burned - bad decisions, regretful moments, and the consequences that follow.**

**Psalm 51 - What to do after you have crashed and burned.**

**This is for you or someone you know who is there.**

**The truth is that life will have moments when we fail.**

**Some Bibles have an introduction to the Psalms; this one is long - For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba. (Immediately, you realize this is not a put-the-top-down, crank-it-up, good-time summer song… Jewish emo.)**

**Can you imagine the Countdown with Casey Kasem – Here’s this week's number 1 – turn it up - This goes out to all you adulterers who got a girl pregnant and killed her husband to cover it up.**

**Behind the Music - The story behind the song**

**Psalm 51 is based on 2 Samuel 11 and 12**

**David’s Failure: David’s rise and success - an undefeated warrior who fell from grace - just a quick look – 2 Sam 11 (summing it up). In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war (all the men were out fighting – but David remained in Jerusalem. One night, David was up on his palace rooftop watching naked women bathing. Let’s be honest, we all have rooftops… You know where to go to find what you want… that secret.**

**David sees Bathsheba, desires her, and calls her to his house – they are intimate, and months later, she is pregnant. David conspires to cover it up, sending her husband to the front line to die. He then invites this poor pregnant widow to his house. What a great king for taking her in – a hero.**

**David thinks he got away with it - months later his friend, the prophet Nathan, shows up and tells him a story: 2 Sam 12 - Two men in a certain town, one rich, the other poor. The rich man had a lot of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had only one that he loved as his own child. A traveler came through, and the rich man wanted to throw a barbecue. Instead of using one of his own sheep, he snuck into his neighbor's yard and stole the poor man's one lamb to kill and eat. / When David heard this, he was furious: “… that man deserves to die – he must pay for what he did 4X over…” Nathan said to David, "You are the man!**

**Nathan tells David, God gave him all he could ever want: success, a family, victory over his enemies – but you stole what did not belong to you with adultery and murder. Why did you despise the Lord? What do you deserve?**

**How many of you think God forgives? Have you ever asked God to forgive you for something? What about the consequences? This is what Psalm 51 is about – let’s read it.**

**Psalm 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. 5 Surely, I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. 6 Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.**

**7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.**

**10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

**13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. 14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. 15 Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. 16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. 17 My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.**

**18 May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem.**

**19 Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.**

**Let’s break down this Psalm and dissect the lyrics.**

**Remember, Nathan had confronted him – and he writes this.**

**Psalm 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. (word, means rebellious actions) 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.**

**Have mercy on me, not because I deserve it, I’m a good guy, I said I was sorry, or came to church and I’m trying – but according to… God’s unfailing love (goodness) and great compassion.**

**GETTING BACK ON TRACK: (If you have crashed!)**

**1. It all starts with understanding the power and purpose of the Cross**

**God has the power, goodness, and compassion to forgive. It was that love and compassion that compelled Jesus to endure the cross.**

**You might think, “You don’t realize what I did.” (You don’t realize the power and purpose of the cross.) “You don’t know how far I am.” Yes, I do, you're one prayer away.**

**We get so caught up in what we did. You can’t out sin the cross.**

**It starts with understanding the power and purpose of the cross - God’s unfailing love and great compassion for us.**

**3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. (Been there? can’t stop thinking about it) 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.**

**I wonder about v.4- what about his wife, Bathsheba, Uriah’s family, his baby, his people… only you? I bet Uriah’s parents would have had an issue with that.**

**Here’s why he said that - he’s realized that –**

**2. Our sin is always more about God than ourselves and others**

**His past hurt others and destroyed lives - he has to live with the consequences – we are instructed in the Bile to try to make things right… But when it gets down to it, this is about us and God.**

**Luke 15:21 - Jesus tells a story about a son who ran off to Vegas and blew his inheritance with wild living - this is what he says when he came home - The son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” I’ll live as your servant, please take me back. This is about you and me, the sin that separated us.**

**Ps 51:5 Surely, I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. (total depravity) 6 Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. (I’m not blaming anyone – this is my doing).**

**3. You can't know grace until you see your own sin**

**We need an understanding of our sin, which can only be revealed to us by God.**

**That moment you realize you are a sinner in need of salvation is wreaking. For many older teens / young adults, or later in life, after spending years living for yourself.**

**Do you see the weight and severity of your sin before a holy God? When you do this… You cry out for grace & mercy.**

**Psalm 51:7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.**

**Hyssop (pic) – a purple Herb/mint used by priests like a brush (Exodus – dipped in blood and put on the door / Leviticus – used to cleanse lepers). Dip in the blood of a lamb sprinkling on a person - “you are clean.”**

**A picture/type of Christ (Royal purple). Christ is the hyssop – one is cleansed by the blood of the lamb. Jesus is woven into the fabric of Psalms.**

**4. Forgiveness is only found with the blood of the Lamb**

**Look what happens: I will be clean – I will be washed whiter than snow – I will have joy in my bones – You will forgive my sins and blot out all my iniquity.**

**Only Jesus, the bloody hyssop, has the power to cleanse.**

**Another song he wrote about this issue - Ps 32:1 Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. 2 Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. (Sounds nice and encouraging but then…) 3 When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Selah (guitar solo) 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord"-- and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah – In this Psalm, He was not just dealing with the sin… but the guilt that came with it…**

**Psalm 38:4 My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear. 5 My wounds fester and are loathsome because of my sinful folly. 6 I am bowed down and brought very low; all day long I go about mourning. 7 My back is filled with searing pain; there is no health in my body. 8 I am feeble and utterly crushed; I groan in anguish of heart. 9 All my longings lie open before you, O Lord; my sighing is not hidden from you. 10 My heart pounds, my strength fails me; even the light has gone from my eyes. 11 My friends and companions avoid me because of my wounds; my neighbors stay far away.**

**- David was broken, guilt-ridden, sick in soul and body.**

**I understand the power and purpose of the cross – I know this is about my sin and God has forgiven me… but it’s still there…**

**5. Sins have consequences.**

**Reality is - \*\* Some things are fixed immediately**

**\*\* Some things are fixed later - \*\* Some things are never fixed**

**Families are still destroyed – a marriage still falls apart - kids that you never see again – a life that is lost.**

**When Nate confronted David, he told him he was forgiven - but - 2 Sam 12:10 Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.' 11 "This is what the Lord says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes, I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. 12 You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.' "**

**Family chaos follows: daughter assaulted by his own son, family murder, division, deception, son sleeps with his wives to mock him, kingdom overthrown by son – son killed – baby lived 7 days.**

**I don’t understand why my life isn’t better, I’m coming to church…**

**Was there forgiveness – yes. Are there consequences? Yes.**

**Good news: God gives grace and strength to endure the hardships.**

**(Here is the most famous part of Psalm 51) Psalm 51:10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. (HS was not gone) 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

**6. If you are the Lord’s, failure does not cause one to lose salvation**

**Those who are truly in Christ are his forever. You cannot lose that.**

**You won’t lose your salvation, but you will lose your joy.**

**God restores a “willing spirit” and joy that sustains.**

**Have you lost the joy of your salvation? Are you hiding sin?**

**(look what happens in the healing) Ps 51:13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you. 14 Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. 15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.**

**7. God can use your story to bring healing and hope to others**

**Your story – your past – your circumstance – will be cause to praise God for His forgiveness and teach others to avoid the same mistakes.**

**The cross also brings both:**

**Freedom from our sins and Usefulness after our sins.**

**Ps 51:16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. (It’s not about giving, coming to church, reading the bible, being religious, going to confession…) 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

**8. Healing begins with brokenness and remorse**

**Come broken, with humility. We can’t laugh at our sin; we mourn it.**

**It’s more than a prayer - goosebumps, shame, or regret – it’s a**

**Broken Spirit – a contrite (crushed) heart. Matthew 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**James 4:6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble. 7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.**

**Psalm 51 ends with this - 18 In your good pleasure make Zion prosper; build up the walls of Jerusalem. 19 Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight you; then bulls will be offered on your altar.**

**9. Your failures do not define your future**

**With freedom from this sin, I can get back to the purpose for which you called me – your kingdom business. Expanding your work on the earth!**

**There is life in Jesus - beyond your mistakes.**

**Can you remember your graduation? Weather, where you sat, color of your gown, the music… years ago, but it’s still in there – why? Our past is like a jacket (use jacket) always with us - we wear everywhere we go - full of pockets: first date, best friends, driver's license, wedding day.**

**It also holds our choices - good and bad - that weekend, that moment. (Put stuff in my pockets.) They just build up and weigh us down… I can’t run from them – they are with me everywhere…**

**I have forgiveness, but they are still there… the enemy likes to remind us of our past. Freedom is knowing I am loved by God. I have his joy and strength, and God is not finished with me…**

**I know what I have done, but let me tell you what Christ has done. This is what I was… but this is who Christ is.**

**Every life has pockets - every pocket has a story – but at the cross, God restores our joy and our relationship with Him.**

**Psalm 51:10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**