

A MARRAGE WITHOUT REGRETS

PROGRAM 35 (#910165)

WEEK 7 (910335)

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SERIES: A Marriage Without Regrets

TITLE: Program 35 – Wash Me, Cleanse Me O God

FRIDAY

OPEN

If you have sinned and you are truly a believer and you know that you're a believer because you've been changed and because His Spirit bears witness with your Spirit, then you simply come to Him and you confess that sin and you trust in Him and He will make you clean. He's the only one, Precious One, that can make you clean. So have you believed on Jesus Christ? Has your life ever changed?

PART ONE

We're looking at Psalm 51, the Psalm that David wrote after he was confronted by Nathan and his sin with Bathsheba and Uriah was exposed. And this is a Psalm that God has put in the Word of God so that you might be healed, so that you might find hope, so that you might find the strength and the wisdom to go on. Now when you look at this Psalm and we can break it down. And we're going to break down the first three segments of

this Psalm, because I want you to have these down. And you might want to write them in your Bible. But what David does in Psalm 51, verses 1 and 2 is he cries for cleansing in accordance with God's compassion, in accordance with God's love. And that's so important for you to understand. That God loves you, that God's compassionate, that God understands your frame. He knows that it's dust. He knows that man is going to stumble. Now He's not pleased with it and He's grieved by it, but there's love and compassion to meet you there in the depth of that sin and in the depth of your remorse. The second thing he does in, verses 3 through 6, is he confesses in accordance with God's justice, in accordance with God's righteousness. He comes to God and he says, "God, I'm acknowledging that this is sin, that You are right and just when You judge me. I am committing to You the fact that I know that I have transgressed against You. I am naming my sin." And that's what he's doing as he goes through the Psalm. Because at the very beginning of the Psalm, he says, "This is the Psalm that I wrote when I was confronted by Nathan in regard to Bathsheba." The third thing that he does in this Psalm and this is the portion that we want to look at today. But the third thing he does is in verses 7 to 14, he petitions God in accordance with God's power to cleanse. He petitions God in accordance with God's power to cleanse. You know when you have sinned, you want to be clean. I mean when you come to your senses about your sin. When you see it from God's point of view, then you want to be cleansed. And you wonder if you will ever be cleansed. You know so many people come to me and they say that "I know that I'm forgiven by God, but how do I forgive myself?" And, you know, there's so much teaching right now that if you've sinned, you've got to forgive yourself. Well, I want to take you to the Scriptures because the Bible doesn't talk about forgiving yourself. And I think many times that we pick up the phrases of the world and we sow those seeds in our mind of that human reasoning and as we look at that human reasoning, then we think, now this is what I've got to do and if I forgive myself, then I'm not going to

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remember my sin anymore. If I forgive myself, then I'm going to be able to live with my regrets. Well let's just see what God had to say. Because I want to know that when you discover, Precious One, what God has to say and you handle situations God's way, then there's peace and then there's hope and then there's a future. God said to Israel, in the midst of their sin, "I know the plans that I have for you. They are plans for a future. They're plans of hope. They're plans for your welfare. They're plans for your good. They're not plans of evil." And He was saying that to them in the book of Jeremiah in the midst of their sin, in the midst as He was getting ready to bring His rod of judgment down on them. He was looking to the future. So let's see what God has to say. In verse 7, he says, "Purify me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Now, I think the word "and" and you hear me stress that, I think it's so crucial that you understand this. If God purifies you with hyssop, then you will be clean. If God washes you, then you will be whiter than snow. Now when David was saying all of this, there was one thing that David had to his advantage. And that was that David knew the Word of God. And David knew how to walk with God and David knew how to commune with God. Because a lot of the Psalms are written by David and a lot of them are written before he ever sinned with Bathsheba. And you can see this wonderful relationship with God, that when David was battling depression, when David was just facing his enemies and wondering if his life was going to continue, he knew how to go to God. He knew how to pour out his soul because he knew God. And you know, there's a scripture and it says, "The people who know their God will be strong and they will do exploits." You say, "Then why did David commit adultery?" David committed adultery because David violated some principles, some precepts from God's Word. David looked on a woman to lust after her and he knew that it was a sin. David took that woman and he knew it was a sin. David knew he should have confessed it, and he didn't and he knew that that was a sin. He tried to manage it in his own way, and he had Uriah, her

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husband, come home in the hopes that he would sleep with his wife and so he wouldn't wonder whose baby was Bathsheba carrying. But you know Uriah didn't submit to that. He stayed at David's house. He stayed on the porch. He never went into his wife because the others were at battle. He was a noble man. And so what did David do? David had him put in the front line at the wall where he would be killed. And he says, "Draw the men away from him." He wanted Uriah to die. So David had done all these things because David did not continue to walk in the precepts of God. Now he's coming back. Now he's coming back and as he comes back, and this is so important for you to understand. As he comes back, he is going back to not how he feels, to not what his situation is, but who is God and how does God deal with things. What is the character of God? What is the way of God? And he remembers, because as a king, when he came to power, he was to sit down and write his own copy of the Law. So when he says, "Purge me with hyssop," then our mind goes back to Leviticus, chapter 14, and that's probably where David's went back to, maybe not to Leviticus 14, specifically, but to the book of Leviticus. The book of Leviticus that tells us about sacrifices, that cover our sin and how we are holy even as God is holy. And in Leviticus, chapter 14, in verse 2, it says, "This shall be the law of the leper in the day of his cleansing. Now he shall be brought to the priest." Now leprosy was kind of, in a sense, a picture of sin, even as leaven was a picture of sin. Because you see God striking Miriam with leprosy when she disobeys God, when she doesn't honor Moses the way she should. So you see this happening. You see this happening to a king when he doesn't obey God. And so it's like a judgment of God. And he says, "And the priest shall go outside the camp." He says, "He shall be brought to the priest, and the priest shall go outside the camp." All right with that leprosy, no leper would be allowed inside the camp because they were unclean. So the priest would go outside the camp to meet the leper outside the camp. And it says, "Thus the priest shall look, and if the infection of leprosy has been healed in the

leper, then the priest shall give orders to take two live clean birds and cedar wood and a scarlet string and hyssop for the one who is to be cleansed. And the priest shall also give orders to slay one bird in an earthenware vessel over running water. As for the live bird, he shall take it, together with the cedar wood and the scarlet string and the hyssop, and shall dip them and the live bird in the blood of the bird that was slain over the running water. He shall then sprinkle seven times the one, who is to be cleaned from the leprosy, and shall pronounce him clean, and shall let the live bird go free in the field.” What is he showing? He’s showing the substitution. He’s showing, okay, one bird dies. That blood is shed. The other bird is going to live. That’s a picture of us. He takes that bird and he dips it in this blood, along with the running water. And then the leper is pronounced clean and the bird is set free, to show the leper what? You are cleansed. You have been purged with hyssop. You have been purged with the blood. You have been purged with the water. “Wash me and I shall be clean. Purge me with hyssop, I shall be clean.” Why? Our, my iniquities taken away? Now listen. This is what God has ordained. And God ordained it because He knew the weakness of our flesh, because He knew that we would sin and He knew that if we didn’t have a way to be cleansed that we would just go deeper and deeper and deeper into sin. And so this is what he’s showing us. You know so often when we sin and we see the grievousness of our sin, we think, if only I could do something that would help me pay for that sin. We want to do penance. We want to go through this and this and this in order to make ourselves right, in order to compensate for the awfulness of what we’ve done. You’ve seen it down through the ages. If you study the story of Martin Luther, Martin Luther’s sin was ever before him. And he wanted to be rid of that sin. And living as a monk he would take a whip and he would flog himself. He would lay down on the floor, practically naked and sleep on that cold, hard floor in penance. He would go without food trying to make

himself right. What have you been doing, Precious One, to try to make yourself right with God.

PART TWO

There's only One who can purge you. There's only One who can make you clean. Now what do you have to do? Do you sit passively back and say, "Okay, I've sinned."? No! No! Go with me to Isaiah. In Isaiah, chapter 1, God is taking His people to task because He's up to here with their sin. And in Isaiah, chapter 1, in verse 16, He says to them, "Wash yourselves. Make yourselves clean. Remove the evil of your deeds from my sight. Cease to do evil." Now this is where it begins. You see your sin and you stop doing the evil. You stop it. You bring it to a halt. But then how do you get clean? How do you wash yourself? You wash yourself in the only basin of cleansing fluid that is sufficient. Listen to what He says. He says in verse 18 of Isaiah 1, "Come now, and let us reason together...though your sins be as scarlet, yet shall you be as white as snow. Though they be red like crimson, they will be like wool." God says, "Come now and let us reason together." When you are grieved by your sin, the only way that you're going to find peace is not in you forgiving yourself, but in you understanding that when you go to God and you ask for forgiveness, Precious One, then He washes you and you are clean. He purges you. You are whiter than snow. "What can take away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. Nothing, Precious One, can take away your sins but the blood of Jesus. And understand this, that when they are taken away, they are taken away! And you must believe that. You must believe that. I know it's easier to do penance, but it's not going to take away your sin. Only the grace of God through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and the washing of the water of the Word of God can keep you clean, make you clean and keep you clean. You know when Jesus was in the upper room and He started to wash the feet of the disciples and He came to Peter and

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Peter said, “You’re not going to wash my feet. Never!” I mean he knew who Jesus Christ was. He knew that Jesus was the Son of God. And he says, “You’re not going to wash my feet.” And Jesus looked at him. And this is recorded for us only in the Gospel of John. And in John, chapter 13, Jesus looks at him and He says, “What I do you don’t realize now, but you shall understand hereafter.” And Peter said, “Never shall You wash my feet!” And Jesus said, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.” Only Jesus can wash you in His blood. And that blood is sufficient for this sin that you have just committed, precious one. When He says, “If I don’t wash you, you have no part in Me.” I love Peter. I love Peter. I mean he just he just opens his mouth and it all spills out. And he says, “Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.” And Jesus said to him. Now listen carefully. “He who has bathed need only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.’ For He knew ... who was betraying Him.” Judas Iscariot was sitting there. And Judas had never believed in Jesus Christ. Now listen. If you have sinned, and it doesn’t have to be adultery but we’re talking about adultery, but if you have done that, how do you get clean? How do you get forgiveness? How do you live with yourself? Well, Jesus said to Peter, “He who is clean, he who has been bathed, needs only to bathe his feet.” Now what is He saying? He’s saying there is an initial cleansing and that initial cleansing is when you come to God and you confess that you’re a sinner and that you need a Savior and you realize that the only way you can be saved is not by doing penance, not by doing works, but by having God save you according to His grace, His unmerited favor. And so you go and you believe in Jesus Christ. And then what does God do? God takes the blood of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He applies it to your sins and He cleanses you. And you are whiter than snow. The crimson red of your sin is all gone. It’s all gone. By the crimson red of the blood of Jesus Christ, you’re made clean. All right, now. Then when you sin after that, what do you do? You don’t need to go back and be saved again. Because once you’re

saved, Christ comes to live inside of you. The Father comes to live inside of you. You are sealed with the Holy Spirit until the day you die. And the day you die then you are taken into the presence of God. You're absent from the body and you're present with the Lord. And you're living with Him forever and ever. And someday you'll come back down here to earth and you'll live with Him, because you have eternal life. But after, that is forever, He says, "I have come that you might have life and that you might have it abundantly." God says, "He that comes to Me, I will in no wise cast out." And so, "You receive Jesus Christ and you are cleansed....," as Hebrews 10 says, "...of your sins, once for all." But then, if you sin after that, then if you commit adultery after that, then if you do any sin after that, you've already become part of God's family. You belong to Him. So now you are made clean by confessing that sin. And what God does is He purges you. And you are made clean. He washes you and you are made whiter than snow. He does it. So the question today is twofold. Number one: have you ever come to Jesus Christ? Have you ever truly been born from above? Have you seen yourself as a sinner? Have you seen that there is a holy God and that you have offended a holy God? And have you said, "God, I am sorry for my sin and I want to be set free from my sin, but I can't be set free from my sin." The Bible says, "Whosoever commits sin, habitually, becomes a slave of sin." God, I'm the slave of sin, but, God, if You will set me free, I shall be free indeed. I receive Jesus Christ as my Savior. And when you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior, as a sinner, because I am sinner, and I receive Jesus. The minute I receive Jesus, then I am set free. I'm set free from sin's penalty. "The wages of sin is death." It's hell. I'm set free from sin's power, because now I have the Holy Spirit in me and I'm able to choose not to sin. And someday, I will be set free from sin's presence when I'm absent from this body and I'm present with the Lord. But in between being set free from sin's penalty and set free from sin's presence, now you're living here. If you have sinned and you are truly a believer and you know that you're a believer

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because you've been changed and because His Spirit bears witness with your Spirit, then you simply come to Him and you confess that sin and you trust in Him and He will make you clean.