

Sin Much?

Psalm 38

[This is a long psalm, so as usual with the longer psalms, rather than including the entirety of it here, I encourage you to read it before continuing on with this devotion.]

This psalm is one of the seven great penitential psalms, or psalms of repentance. David has sinned. He feels the Lord's wrath against sin in his heart and his conscience. He feels the effects of his sin in his body. He says: ***I am feeble and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart*** (v. 8). For David, sin is no small thing.

Is sin a small thing for you? Truthfully, we have to admit, sometimes it is. We don't always feel our sin as David does here. Maybe we pridefully think that what God calls sin really isn't sin at all. He's wrong; I'm right! Or maybe we've gotten used to a particular sin. At first, we felt it. We felt guilty and wrong. But over time, our hearts grew dull and hard to the sin and we don't even give it a second thought. When that happens, we need the preaching of God's Law to cut through the hardness of our heart and bring us to repentance again.

So what to do with our sin? Hide it and cover it up? We often do that. It might even work for a while. But how often does the skeleton in our closet come back to haunt us? Or maybe it festers in your heart, causing more sin. Better is to do what David does: confess it. Bring it to the Lord. Repent. He cannot deal with his sin. He needs help. He needs forgiveness and spiritual healing. As do we.

At the end of this psalm, then, David cries out:

Do not forsake me, O Lord!

O my God, be not far from me!

Make haste to help me,

O Lord, my salvation!

Be not far away, O God! Make haste! Be quick, O Lord, my salvation! If you've ever felt this way, like God is a million miles away - and when you need Him the most! - remember when this prayer of David's was truly answered. When the Lord did come. When He was not far off, but came to us so closely that He became a man. The baby born to Mary named Jesus. Jesus is the Greek form of His name. *Yeshu'ah* is the Hebrew form, and is, in fact, the same word that in the psalm is translated as salvation! So we could also translate the last verse of this psalm like this: *Make haste to help me, O Lord, my Saviour!* And the Lord did. He came and helped. He came and died. And so now for us, there is forgiveness of every sin. No sin too big, no sin too small. He died for them all and so you can be sure: **you are forgiven!**

Take a cue from David. Today, or tonight, pray this psalm. Repent of your sins. Those you know and those you don't know. Those that bother you and even those that don't. And pray: *Make haste to help me, O Lord, my Saviour!* Make haste to help me, my Jesus! And know that He has. He is. And He will.

Lord Jesus, thank You for coming to be my salvation, my Saviour. Work in my heart that I feel my sin and repent, knowing that with You there is forgiveness and the spiritual healing I need. Help me also forgive those who sin against me, and to look to You at all times for all that I need. Work in my heart also with Your Spirit, that I love You, not sin, and root out the deep roots of sin in my heart, that I live for You and in You alone. You, my salvation, my Saviour! Amen.