

LOVED: Through the Shame

Psalm 51:1-12

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

There once was a very poor man who didn't have anything except for a little lamb. He loved this little lamb like it was his own child and took it everywhere with him. The man fed the lamb with whatever he had for dinner and let it sleep beside him in his bed. There was also a very rich man that had many sheep. One day, a traveler came to visit the rich man and the rich man looked for a way to feed his guest. Instead of taking one of his many sheep to feed him, he decided to take the poor man's only lamb to feed his guest.

What? Why would a rich man take a poor man's only lamb instead of using one of his many sheep? This was a story told to King David, because even though he was the king and had a lot, he still took from someone who had only a little. When he first heard the story about the sheep, he was outraged at the rich man. Once he found out that he was the rich man from the story, he was confronted with his sin and he felt deep sorrow and shame.

David was the author of the Psalm we read today. After realizing that he did wrong, he appropriately turned to God for help. When we sin, our first response is usually to cover it up or try and make it right on our own. However, we are sinful and cannot make things right by ourselves. We need help to be right with God. Jesus has come and paid the price for our sin so that we can be made right.

Even though David was ashamed of what he did, God forgave him for his sin and he forgives us for our sins. We pray for God to create in us pure hearts so that we can reach out to others in loving ways. We pray that God will continue to bless us with the Holy Spirit so that we may remain firm in our faith. We pray that God will give us the joy that comes from knowing that we have been redeemed from our deserved punishment of death through Jesus' death and resurrection.

Let's pray:

Create in us pure hearts, O God, and renew steadfast spirits within us.
Bless us with your Holy Spirit and give us the joy of being saved and redeemed so that we can live with you forever. Thank you for loving and forgiving us even when we are ashamed of what we have done. Amen.

