



## Has Anybody Seen My Soul? [Mark 8:34-37]

### A. Signs That We're Losing Our Souls [2 Samuel 11-12]

1] Faces Don't Line Up [Inner - Private - Public]

2] Hidden Sin - Compromise Leads to Cover Up

*"The swift wind of compromise is a lot more devastating than the sudden jolt of misfortune."* [Chuck Swindoll]

3] Justification of Bad Decisions and Behavior

4] Self-Centeredness

### B. Process of Reclaiming Our Souls [Psalm 51:1-17]

1] Embrace Responsibility - Driven By Self-Honesty

*"The greatest day in your life and mine is when we take total responsibility for our attitudes [and actions]. That's the day we truly grow up."* [John Maxwell]

2] Syncing Our Words ⇌ Actions - Resist the Gap [1 Jn. 1:6-7]

*"If you simply make your talk match your walk, the gap between who you are and who you want to be becomes smaller instantly."* [Carey Nieuwhof]

3] Make Personal Growth A Priority - Everyday

*Jesus: The preparation → implementation ratio - 10:1 [N]*

*"Our intimacy with God—His highest priority for our lives—determines the impact of our lives."* [Charles Stanley]

### Discussion Questions

1. Read 2 Samuel 12:1–14 while imagining that you are a servant in the throne room who is watching the interaction between David and Nathan. What emotions do you feel as the prophet rebukes the king? Now imagine that it is a month later, and David is singing a new song, Psalm 51. As you listen to him sing this song of contrition, what are you feeling this time? [NKJV Abide Bible]
2. Read Romans 7:19. How can you relate to Paul in verse 19? In which area(s) of your life do you struggle to do what is right? [Abide]
3. Read Psalm 51:1-3. Only God's mercy opens our eyes to our own sin (vv. 1–3). Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas of sin from this past week. If you are not aware of any sin, ask the Spirit to reveal blind spots or hard-heartedness. [Abide]

[N] These quotes were taken from Carey Nieuwhof's Book, *Didn't See It Coming . . .*, Waterbook, 2018.

### Declaration of Jesus

**Mark 8:34-37** And calling the crowd to him with His disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? <sup>37</sup> For what can a man give in return for his soul? [Jesus was explaining to the crowd that nothing or no one can give them eternal life except Him]

### David's Plea for Forgiveness/Integrity/Intimacy

#### Psalm 51:1-5 [Embracing Responsibility]

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. <sup>5</sup> Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

#### Psalm 51:6 [Resisting the Gap]

<sup>6</sup> Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

#### Psalm 51:7-17 [Prioritizing Personal Growth]

<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. <sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. <sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. <sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

<sup>14</sup> Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. <sup>15</sup> O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. <sup>16</sup> For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

<sup>17</sup> The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

### Paul's Struggle

**Romans 7:15** For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

**Romans 7:18-19** For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

**Romans 7:21-24** So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

<sup>24</sup> Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? [Answer found in verse 25]