

Lesson III.

DAVID'S CONFESSION

Oct. 18, 1902

Psalm 51 : 1-17. Study Psalm 51 : 1-19—Memory Verses, 1-4.

Golden Text—Create in me a clean heart, O God.—Psalm 51 : 10.

1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness : according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I acknowledge my transgressions : and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in thy sight : that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity ; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts : and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean : wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Make me to hear joy and gladness ; that the bones *which* thou hast broken may rejoice.

9 Hide thy face from sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God ; and renew a right spirit within me.

11 Cast me not away from thy presence ; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation ; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit.

13 *Then* will I teach transgressors thy ways ; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation : and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.

15 O Lord, open thou my lips ; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

16 For thou desirest not sacrifice ; else would I give it : thou delightest not in burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit : a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

THE LESSON RETOLD

One evening, as David was walking on the roof-garden of his palace, he saw in the courtyard below, Bath-sheba, the beautiful wife of Uriah, one of his soldiers, and not knowing who she was, he fell in love with her on the spot.

Upon hearing whose wife she was, David's next step was to give orders that in battle Bath-sheba's husband should be put in such a place that he would surely be killed. Then, as soon as Uriah was dead, David took Bath-sheba to be his wife.

Hearing what had been done, the prophet Nathan brought David a message from the Lord to show him how terribly he had sinned, and that he should be punished before all Israel.

Then David understood how great his sin

was, and prayed to God to forgive him, saying, "Have mercy upon me, O God, according unto Thy loving kindness, according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions."

And David wrote all the words of his prayer in his book of songs or psalms, that his people and all the world might know how bitterly he had repented of the evil he had done.

Making no excuse for himself, David confessed to the Lord, saying, "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight. I acknowledge my transgressions : and my sin is ever before me."

But notwithstanding all he had done, David believed that God was able and willing to make his guilty heart as clean and