



1

Scripture Reading

Have **mercy** on me, **O God**, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of **my sins**. Wash me clean from **my guilt**. (Psalms 51:1–2 NLT-SE)

Purify me from my sin. For I **recognize my rebellion**; it haunts me day and night. (Psalms 51:3 NLT-SE)

2

Scripture Reading

Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; **I have done what is evil in your sight**. You will be proved right in what you say, and your **judgment against me is just**. (Psalms 51:4 NLT-SE)

For I was born a sinner—yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. But you **desire honesty from the womb**, teaching me wisdom even there. (Psalms 51:5–6 NLT-SE)

3

Scripture Reading

Oh, give me back my **joy** again; you have broken me—now let me rejoice. (Psalms 51:8 NLT-SE)

Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my **guilt**. (Psalms 51:9 NLT-SE)

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. (Psalms 51:10 NLT-SE)

Do not banish me from your **presence**, and don't take your **Holy Spirit** from me. (Psalms 51:11 NLT-SE)

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Scripture Reading

You do not desire a **sacrifice**, or I would offer one. You do not want a **burnt offering**. (Psalms 51:16 NLT-SE)

The **sacrifice** you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a **broken** and **repentant** heart, O God. (Psalms 51:17 NLT-SE)

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Introduction

Many today say we live in a “**throwaway**” culture.

We throw away just about everything.

We’ve been using this **expression** since LIFE magazine published an article in 1955 about a new phenomenon that emerged in the prosperity of the 1950s.

“**Throwaway Living**” was the name of that article.



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Introduction

Instead of **blowing our noses** using washable handkerchiefs, we use **tissues** and throw them away.

We **diaper babies' bottoms**, and then throw them away—the diapers, not the bottoms.

We buy a **pair of shoes** and throw them away.

We buy **water packaged** in plastic bottles, drink the water—and throw the bottles away.

Almost everything we purchase comes in what many call **excessive packaging** which . . . is thrown away.

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We buy **small and large appliances** and when they break down we buy new ones and throw away the old ones.

We buy **TVs** and throw them away.

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Introduction

In an era long past, **small shops** existed to repair items that consumers didn't want to throw away.

Used to be that a small repair shop could provide a modest income.

You could get your TVs, toasters, radios and irons repaired for a small charge and they were good to go.



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Introduction

The archetype for such small businesses is **Emmett's Fix-It Shop** in the fictional town of Mayberry, as depicted on the 1960s television series

"The Andy Griffith Show."
Emmett Clark fixed clocks, lamps, radios and more.

These shops, for the most part, have disappeared, except for **Tom's Vacuum Clinic** right here in Lexington, Kentucky.



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Repair Cafés

This is why an organization called **Repair Cafés** is so interesting.

Repair Cafés are free meeting places and they're all about repairing things (together).

At a **Repair Café**, you'll find tools and materials to help you make any repairs you need on clothes, furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles, crockery, appliances and toys.

You'll also find **expert volunteers** with repair skills in all kinds of fields.



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Repair Cafés

According to their website, visitors bring their **broken items** from home.

Together with the specialists they start making their repairs in the **Repair Café**.

If you have nothing to repair, you can enjoy a cup of tea or coffee.

Or you can lend a hand with someone else's repair job.



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Repair Cafés

You can also get inspired at the **reading table**—by leafing through **books** on repairs and DIY.

There are over 1,300 Repair Cafés worldwide.

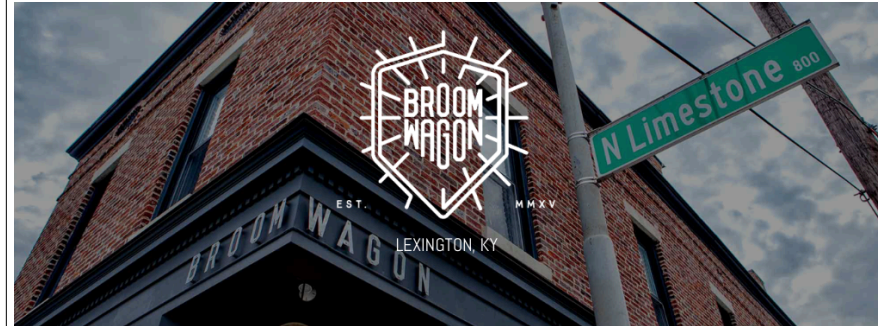
In fact, there is one here in Lexington and it is called “**BroomWagon**” and located on North Limestone.



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Bikes • Coffee • Food

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Soul Repair

Anyway, here's why we mention the **Repair Café** movement:

We **throw away** more than clocks, lamps and diapers these days.

We also **throw away** friendships, values, traditions, manners, decency and common sense.

Some might say that we too often throw away our **souls** in pursuit of some elusive dream we hold dear.

We cast aside the **spiritual component** of our lives thinking, perhaps, that we will focus on spirituality later.

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Soul Repair

Then, one morning, we wake up **wondering** who we are and where we've been and where our life has taken us.

“Life is what happens when you're busy making other plans,” according to Beatles legend John Lennon.

Whatever you want to call it, we sense **down deep** that

Something is wrong,

Something is broken, and

Something is in desperate need of fixing.

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King David's Brokenness

In this psalm, we see David taking his **sorry soul** to **God's repair café**.

David -- this towering and impressive figure of the Old Testament, the greatest king in Israel's history, the monarch who reigned at the height of Israel's glory—had developed a throwaway mentality.

He threw away the laws of God.

He threw away the sanctity of the marriage bond.

He threw away his self-respect.

He threw away a woman's honor and reputation.

He threw away a man's life—the husband, Uriah.

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King David's Brokenness

He **recklessly** threw away and abandoned

the **person** God called him to be,

the **person** that Samuel had anointed, and

the **promise of God** of a never ending dynasty.



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King David's Brokenness

King David needed to be fixed, and so he went to God,

the **Great Fixer**,

the **Great Repairer of Souls**,

the **Great Specialist** that is not at a loss in what to do.



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God's Repair Café

David knew a lot about God, and right now the most important thing he knew was that **God is rich in mercy** and **doesn't throw away things**—especially when we acknowledge our sin(s) and repent.

As the Scripture says, "*The **LORD** is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ... He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities*" (103:8,10).

This is why David could **pray with hope**, "*Do not cast me away from your **presence**, and do not take your **holy spirit** from me*" (v. 11).

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God's Repair Café

However, there's no point stopping by **God's Repair Café** just to say, "Hey, I'm good," and then go on your way.

Notice David's **attitude**. He knows he needs some **treatment**.

*"Wash me thoroughly from my **iniquity**, and **cleanse me from my sin**. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me" (vv. 2-3).*

Acknowledging the problem is a **key factor**, and this psalm has plenty of it.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, . . ." (v. 4).

And David gets even more dramatic, "*Indeed, I was born guilty*" (v. 5).

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God's Repair Café

However, getting fixed at **God's Repair Café** isn't free.

For there is a **cost**, and this is it:

acknowledging that we need help, and

accepting the help that is offered.

As Psalm 51 says, "*The sacrifice [or cost] acceptable to God is a **broken spirit**; a broken and contrite heart, **O God, you will not despise**."* (v. 17)

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God's Repair Café

Let's remember that **David's remorse** was all about his own brokenness, not someone else's.

David didn't point fingers at someone else or his circumstances.

He took responsibility and found **mercy**.

To tell you the truth, he should have been put to death.

23

Psalm 32

In Psalm 32, there is a description of a man who is also eaten up with **guilt**.

However, he doesn't do anything about it. Not even confessing it to the Lord. But later he says,

*When I **kept silent**, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night **your hand was heavy upon me**; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. (Psalms 32:3-4 NIV)*

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Psalm 32

Then he does something very remarkable. He says,

*Then I **acknowledged** my sin to you and did not **cover up my iniquity**. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD” — and you **forgave** the guilt of my sin. (Psalms 32:5 NIV)*

Then he says, *Therefore let everyone who is godly **pray** to you while you may be found. (Psalms 32:6 NIV)*

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Psalm 32

By the way, the man of this Psalm begins it with the following **declaration**.

***Blessed** is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. **Blessed** is the man whose sin the **LORD** does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. (Psalms 32:1–2 NIV)*

And yes, this was also a psalm of David.

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Summary

To tell you the truth, **guilt** is our friend, if we will listen to it.

It tells us **something** may be wrong and may need fixing.

And if we are honest with ourselves we’ll know exactly what that sin is.

Acknowledging **guilt** and taking the sin that caused it to the Lord is crucial, that is if we want a productive relationship with the **Lord**.

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Summary

In the book of Jeremiah, the Lord pleads with Israel to acknowledge their **guilt**. The Lord says, . . .

Only acknowledge your guilt — you have rebelled against the LORD your God, (Jeremiah 3:13 NIV)

*Then I will give you **shepherds** after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding. (Jeremiah 3:15 NIV)*

However, as we know what happened, Israel **hardened their hearts** and instead of receiving “good shepherds” to lead them, they fell prey to all kinds of false prophets and teachers.

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Conclusion

There is a prayer model called **A-C-T-S**. It stands for Adoration-Confession-Thanksgiving-Supplication.

In view of this sermon, what should be a major element of our prayer time? **Is it not Confession?**

In his epistle, the apostle James also brings out the important of **acknowledgment** and **confession** particularly as it relates to healing. [See James 5:14-15]

He says, *Therefore **confess** your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be **healed** {repaired or fixed}*. (James 5:16 NIV)

Conclusion

If we want **mercy** in our lives, we need to acknowledge and take responsibility for our sins.

In fact, as we take **Communion** tonight, **confessing** our sins, shortcomings, and faults can help start us on the road to recovery where we find **repairs** for our body, soul, and spirit.

Moreover, incorporating **confession** as part of our daily devotion, could also help greatly.

We all need **God's mercy**, therefore, let us open the door wide so that we can enjoy the full presence of the Lord in our lives. AMEN