

## **Saturday, March 14**

*Scripture Reading: Psalm 51:1-17*

About a week ago now, I spent several hours cleaning off my office desk. It was amazing how many things I found hidden in those piles, some things I had totally forgotten about and other things I thought I had lost forever. When I was a kid, my pastor had a sign on his desk that read, “An uncluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind!” I disagree. It’s amazing how much clearer my mind has been and how much more organized I have been this past week with an uncluttered desk!

So often our lives start to look a lot like our desks – cluttered, stacked up, in disarray, and, simply put, messy! Every once in a while, our lives need a good straightening up, just like our desks! This 40 day season of Lent provides us with a terrific opportunity to unclutter our lives as we confess our sinfulness before God, as we repent of those behaviors and habits in our lives that have separated us from God and one another, as we return to daily prayer and weekly worship, as we recommit our lives to serving others and sharing our offerings with the poor.

King David, having committed adultery with Bathsheba and having had Bathsheba’s husband Uriah killed, certainly had a cluttered life. Yet, in Psalm 51 David prays that God would help him remove the clutter: “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit” (51:10-12).

David’s prayer is a good prayer for us as well, especially during these reflective days of Lent. What is hidden beneath the clutter of your life? What has been lost and needs to be found? Confess your sin. Return to the Lord. And, enjoy once again the freedom that Christ’s forgiveness brings to our cluttered hearts.

*Prayer: God of Mercy, create in us clean hearts. Put a new and right spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain in us a willing spirit. Amen*

Written by Pastor Greg Busboom