



Title | Restoration
Series | After God's Own Heart
Text | Psalm 51:1-17
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Sermon Notes

Psalm 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! ³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴Against 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. ⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. ⁶Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. ⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. ⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. ¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. ¹⁴Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. ¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. ¹⁶For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. ¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. *ESV*

Big Idea:

Psalm 51:10-12 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. *ESV*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Read Psalm 63:1-8. How does David describe his need to seek after God and to be close to Him? Note that verse 1 in the ESV translation says “earnestly I seek You”, whereas in the NKJV translation is says “early will I seek You”. Considering both translations, what kind of priority does David put on seeking God? Therefore, even in David’s demanding job as King of Israel, his priority is his close relationship with God.

Tuesday:

Read 2 Samuel chapters 11 and 12. How bad was David’s sin regarding Bathsheba and Uriah? To what degree would you expect the immensity of his sin to affect his relationship with God? What was David’s response to Nathan’s rebuke? His response to God is recorded in Psalm 51, which we will examine next.

Wednesday:

Read Psalm 51:1-6. After committing such horrible sins as David did, many would keep a distance from God, eroding the once close relationship they shared. However, we see in Psalm 51 that David continued to make his relationship with God a priority no matter how difficult it must have been to face God. In this passage, did David beat around the bush or make excuses for his sins, or was he honest and authentic in his admission and confession of what his actions?

Thursday:

Read Psalm 51:7-12. In verses 7-9, what did David request of God, and what was the attitude of his heart? As David dives deeper into the root of his problems, what are his requests in verses 10-12? David’s priority on his close relationship with God becomes evident in this passage. As he asks for restoration in verse 12, what emotion does he associate with restoration?

Friday:

Read Psalm 51:13-17. In verses 13-15, how then does the restoration of David’s close relationship with God also restore his freedom in expressing his love for God? What did David learn about God, as revealed in verses 16 & 17? Could this be what he referred to as being taught wisdom in the “secret heart”, or in the depths of his heart, in the second half of verse 6?

As an extra exercise, read Isaiah 40:11. Does God also desire a close relationship with His children? Now read verse 31. To whom does God renew and transform? What does it mean to “wait for the Lord”?

Daily Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for loving me and for allowing me to pursue a close relationship with You. I want to make this a priority in my life. Please help me to continually walk with You through all of life’s circumstances.

Amen

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