



river west church

Abundant Mercy, True Repentance

Psalm 51

Pastor Adam McMurray

7.22.2012

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

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

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 4 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. 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. 6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. 15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. 16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem; 19 then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Psalm 51 is one of the "Penitential" Psalms. It gives the people of God language with which to confess sin to Him. David wrote Psalm 51 in his darkest moment of guilt and despair, yet the Psalm is full of hope. This morning we will explore together some of more heart-level themes of the Christian faith; the mercy of God, true repentance, and forgiveness through the person and work of Jesus Christ. The following are some questions for you to ponder as you listen today and as you meditate on Psalm 51 this week.

What are you learning about the mercy of God? How has God's mercy been particularly evident in your life?

How did David's understanding of God's mercy influence the way in which he confessed sin?

Are you living with the burden of unconfessed sin today? Why? Or perhaps you have confessed sin but you cannot move forward from the guilt of your sin. Why?