



**Riverstone**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

## Sermon Based Questions

Date- Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September  
2018

Series- Songs of Prayer & Praise 5

### **Have Mercy on Me**

*Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions. Psalm 51:1*

- 1. A whole-hearted confession.** Psalm 51:1-6
- 2. A plea for redemption and restoration.** Psalm 51:7-15.
- 3. The sacrifice God delights in.** Psalm 51:16-21.

A. **Examining the texts.** (It is also useful to read Psalm 50 & 52 as they speak on related themes.)

1. Read Psalm 51:1-6. Who does David appeal too- in light of his sin? What characteristics of God does a prayer of confession rely upon? In light of the situation and what David did- what do you make of verse 4?
2. Read Psalm 51:7-15. What kind of things does the Psalmist ask God to do and not do in light of his own sin? What does David say- he will do if God were to forgive and restore him? According to verses 11-12- what is the role of the Holy Spirit in the recovery of the confessing sinner? (See also Ezekiel 36:25-28.)
3. Read Psalm 51:16-21. According to these verses- what does God desire from those who are repentant? What role does the ritual of sacrifice have within the Psalm? How does this speak to us as New Testament believers in light of the "Christ event?"

#### **B. Meditation & application**

4. Having read this Psalm, how does it speak to us about the situation of being caught in sin? How is this Psalm a model for us in this situation and how could we use it with ourselves and others as we come face to face with our own sinfulness?
5. How do verses 13-15 speak to us about the ministry that can arise out of confession, and forgiveness? How does this Psalm speak to you about your own confessions of sin and brokenness?
6. Why do you think God has given us this Psalm? What role can it play in our spiritual lives? What does it teach us about prayer and confession and how could it be used individually or even corporately in small groups and church services?
7. How does the life, death and resurrection of Christ fulfill this Psalm? What assurances about redemption and the presence of the Spirit does the New Testament give us? Think about scriptures like- Matthew 28:18-20. 1 John 1:9, Acts 15:8-10, others?

Dear heavenly Father, Thank you for Davids' ownership of his own sin. Thankyou that you convinced him of his need to repent and that through that revelation you have given your people a tool for repentance. Forgive us our sins, and renew us by the Spirit that we might flee from sin and testify to the forgiving and redeeming grace of God. In Jesus Name- Amen