



Psalm 51

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Main Idea: *Confession leads to forgiveness and renunciation leads to change*

1. Share what you have learned about the historical context behind Psalm 51.
2. Read verses 1-2. Kevin said, *“The core of forgiveness begins with the character of God.”* Why is God’s unfailing love, His compassion, and His washing away sins able to give us confidence to know forgiveness is real and hearts can change?
3. Read verses 3-4. What do you see in David’s words that tell us that he is truly confessing and not blame-shifting?

Tim Keller made an important distinction between self-pity and repentance. Self pity says this sin got me in trouble and now I am really sorry because it is impacting me. Genuine repentance means we see the sin as the affront and offense to the loved one and we recognize that our sin breaks the very heart of God.

4. Read verses 5-9. What does this tell us about David’s understanding of his own sinfulness and his relationship with God? What does David’s confession teach us about our own sinfulness?

5. Read verses 10-15. What changes in his life did David pray for? Can you relate to David asking for a restoration of his joy? How? Where have you turned to satisfy your loves and longings?
6. Can someone in the group share about an experience when they authentically repented? An experience of true confession, and sincere renunciation of sin. Did God eventually use that experience to allow you to teach others about the way of God? How?
7. Read verses 16-17. What does it say about God to read that He loves a broken and contrite heart? What does the path look like to get to the place where we renounce our sin to the point of hating our sin?
8. Read verse 18-19. Why do you think the psalm moves from individual confession and renunciation to the corporate worshiping community?
9. What does Psalm 51 tell us about the good news of Jesus Christ? How does it point to the cross of Christ?

As a group consider discussing and reading through this prayer of confession together that Kevin shared at the end of his sermon.

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.

We have offended against your holy laws.

We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and apart from your grace, there is no health in us.

O Lord, have mercy upon us.

Spare all those who confess their faults.

Restore all those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to all people in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of your holy Name.

Amen.