

Week 7 - “Psalm 51 – Humility Before God”

The Aim of the Session

They say that Confession is good for the soul but even Elton John said that “Sorry seems to be the hardest word”. Why?

- **Welcome**

What is the worst thing which you will ever admit to doing?

- **Worship**

Read Revelation 7:9-14. Imagine being part of that throng and worship together.

- **Word**

- ❖ How honest do you think you are in your dealings with people?
- ❖ Are you ever tempted to try and work things to your advantage?
- ❖ How easy do you find it to open up to other people?
- ❖ How easy do you find it to be honest with God?
- ❖ How easy do you find it to be honest with yourself?
- ❖ Why do we sometimes try to think we can fool others, ourselves or God?

It might be useful for the leader of this session to briefly remind everyone of the context of the Psalm – see 2 Samuel chapters 11 and 12.

Read Psalm 51:1-4

- Before Nathan arrived, how do you think David felt about what he had done?
- How did Nathan deal with the issue?
- What does that say about how God views our sin?
- Sum up the key points of verses 1-4

Read Psalm 51:5-6

- How does David view the roots of his sin (v5)?
- How easy is it for us to accept this idea of “original sin”? Why?
- Where does David see the root of change (v6)?
- How does this connect with Jesus’ view of the Pharisees?

Read Psalm 51:7-14

- What does David long for (vv7-9)?
- What does David need (v10)?
- What does David fear (v11)?
- How does he see the future (vv12-14)?

Read Psalm 51:15-19

- What sort of relationship with God does David see as fruitful?

The story of salvation begins with a fallen world and the idea that every single one of us sins. God's holiness means he cannot contemplate sin in his presence and it took a sinless Saviour, dying in our place, to enable us to have a relationship with God. Whilst David did not know the story of the Cross, he nevertheless had faith in God (Hebrews 11:32) which meant that he was able to confess his sin and receive God's forgiveness. Do we?

- ❖ Do you feel that you are, on the whole, a good person?
- ❖ How do you feel at having to accept that you are, without the Cross, "a sinner"?
- ❖ How honest do you feel people are when they come to the Cross?
- ❖ Why do some people not like having a confession in church?
- ❖ Why do people find it so hard to face up to the reality of their sin?
- ❖ Why do some people find it hard to accept God's forgiveness?

- **Works**

Spend a short time in quiet and ask God to show you where you have sinned against him.

Either with some music playing or in quiet, read the following ...

- Read I John 1:5-8
- Read Luke 15:17-24
- Read I John 1:9-10
- Read Psalm 103:12
- Read Romans 6:22-23
- Read Revelation 7:9-14 (again!)

Give thanks for the forgiveness of your sin and for the love that drove Jesus on to fulfil his work of Salvation. Pray for each other to know the fullness of that love and forgiveness.



Next Time ...

Psalms: Seeking God Through Honesty and Reality

8 – Psalm 90 – “Trusting in the Eternal God”