

Forgive me!

Psalm 51

Historical Context: 2 Samuel 12:1-13 (Psalm 32)

Inscription: To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bath-sheba.

Poetical Structure: Mixture of different types of Parallelism

Poetical Layout

- 1) Have mercy upon me, O God,
 according to thy lovingkindness:
 According unto the multitude of thy tender mercies
 blot out my transgressions.
- 2) Wash me throughly from mine iniquity,
 And cleanse me from my sin.
- 3) For I acknowledge my transgressions:
 And my sin is ever before me.
- 4) Against thee, thee only, have I sinned,
 And done this evil in thy sight:
 That thou mightest be justified when thou speakest,
 And be clear when thou judgest.
- 5) Behold, I was shapen in iniquity;
 And in sin did my mother conceive me.
- 6) Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts:
 And in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know
 wisdom.

- 7) Purge me with hyssop,
and I shall be clean:
Wash me,
and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 8) Make me to hear joy and gladness;
That the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.
- 9) Hide thy face from my sins,
And blot out all mine iniquities.
- 10) Create in me a clean heart, O God;
And renew a right spirit within me.
- 11) Cast me not away from thy presence;
And take not thy holy spirit from me.
- 12) Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;
And uphold me with thy free spirit.
- 13) Then will I teach transgressors thy ways;
And sinners shall be converted unto thee.
- 14) Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
thou God of my salvation:
And my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.
- 15) O Lord, open thou my lips;
And my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.
- 16) For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it:
Thou delightest not in burnt offering.
- 17) The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit:
A broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.
- 18) Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion:
Build thou the walls of Jerusalem.

- 19) Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness,
with burnt offering and whole burnt offering:
Then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

Outline

- I. David's Confession of his sin (v. 1-6)
 - A. He pleaded for the Lord's mercy (v. 1-4a)
 1. He acknowledges his sin (v. 1-2)
 2. He acknowledges his shame (v. 3-4a)
 - B. He pleaded for the Lord's mindfulness (v. 4b-6)
 1. Of his nature (v. 4b-5)
 2. Of his condition (v. 6)
- II. David's Cleansing from his sin (v. 7-12)
 - A. His sin's corruption (v. 7)
 - B. His sin's condition (v. 8)
 1. One of deafness (v. 8a)
 2. One of damage (v. 8b)
 - C. His sin's contempt (v. 9)
 - D. His sin's contamination (v. 10)
 - E. His sin's calamity (v. 11)
 - F. His sin's cheerlessness (v. 12a)
 - G. His sin's collapse (v. 12b)
- III. David's Consecration of his heart (v. 13-19)
 - A. His promise to God (v. 13-15)
 1. He promised to preach (v. 13)
 2. He promised to praise (v. 14-15)
 - B. His perception of truth (v. 16-19)
 1. The personal truth he learned (v. 16-17)
 2. The prophetic truth he learned (v. 18-19)

Poem

Behold the weight of sin, a burden vast,
Its gravity, upon my soul, is cast.
In depths of darkness, I have gone astray,
Transgressions mounting, leading me astray.

The severity of sin, its ruthless sway,
It rends the spirit, brings the soul dismay.
No earthly balm can heal sin's deep divide,
No mortal hand can from its chains provide.

Oh, wretched state, in sin's relentless hold,
The heart grows cold, its warmth and light unfold.
In every thought and deed, its poison seeps,
And in its wake, a broken conscience weeps.

The prideful heart, with arrogance held high,
Denies the truth, embraces the lie.
In selfish pursuits, it takes its delight,
Unmindful of the consequences in sight.

But in the face of sin's unyielding might,
A humble plea, a contrite heart takes flight.
For in the depths of sorrow and remorse,
Lies hope and mercy's overwhelming force.

Oh, Lord, the severity of sin I see,
Its consequences, they encompass me.
But in Your grace, a refuge I have found,
A sanctuary where redemption is crowned.

With tears of sorrow, I implore Your grace,
To cleanse my soul, to seek Your righteous face.
For only You can purify the heart,
And from sin's grip, Your mercy can impart.

So let me not succumb to sin's allure,
But in Your presence, find my soul secure.
In humble reverence, may I ever stay,
From your perfect path, may I never stray.

Meditation Guide

1. How does Psalm 51 emphasize the importance of acknowledging our sins and seeking God's forgiveness?
2. In what ways does the concept of a "broken and contrite heart" resonate with you personally?
3. What does it mean to you to "create in me a clean heart, O God" as expressed in Psalm 51?
4. How does the imagery of being washed and cleansed by God's forgiveness in Psalm 51 impact your understanding of redemption?
5. Reflecting on Psalm 51, what steps can you take to cultivate a deeper sense of repentance and humility in your own life?
6. How does Psalm 51 challenge your perspective on the consequences and effects of sin?
7. In what ways does Psalm 51 encourage you to approach God with honesty and transparency about your shortcomings?
8. How does the plea for restoration and renewal in Psalm 51 inspire you to seek God's transformative work in your life?
9. Reflect on the line "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned" from Psalm 51. What does this statement teach you

about the nature of sin and its impact on our relationship with God?

10. How can you apply the lessons of Psalm 51 in your daily life to cultivate a heart of worship and obedience to God?