

# Message Notes

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**Date:** March 3, 2019

**Bible Focus:** Psalm 51

**Series:** Only by Prayer

**Message Title:** Banking on Mercy

## Psalm 51:1-17 –

<sup>1</sup> *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;*

*according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.*

<sup>2</sup> *Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*

<sup>3</sup> *For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.*

<sup>4</sup> *Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.*

<sup>5</sup> *Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*

<sup>6</sup> *Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb you taught me wisdom in that secret place.*

<sup>7</sup> *Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.*

<sup>8</sup> *Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.*

<sup>9</sup> *Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.*

<sup>10</sup> *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

<sup>11</sup> *Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.*

<sup>12</sup> *Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*

<sup>13</sup> *Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.*

<sup>14</sup> *Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.*

<sup>15</sup> *Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.*

<sup>16</sup> *You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.*

<sup>17</sup> *My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.*

**The need for repentance:**

**The goal of repentance:**

**How the goal is accomplished:**

**God's** \_\_\_\_\_

**God's** \_\_\_\_\_

## Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Psalm 51

1. How often is repentance part of your prayers? How often do you feel the weight of your actions that have torn apart what belongs to God?
2. Would you define yourself as someone who has been caught in sin, someone who has yet to be caught in sin, or someone who is so morally wonderful that there is no sin in you to expose? How do you think you would react if you were caught? How do you think you would pray?
3. When you repent to God, what are you usually hoping you will receive or avoid? Blessings? A ticket out of punishment? Minimized consequences? Reconciliation with God? Something else?
4. If you could live in an eternity with family, friends, leisure, and no pain—but also no God—could you be happy there?
5. When you repent to God, do you typically include a reference to some good work you have done or will do in the future as an attempt to contribute to your appeal, or do you simply rely on His mercy?
6. How do you respond to hearing that we are restored to God entirely as a work of God and not by any merit on our part? That we can only be cleansed if He washes us? That we will only have a pure heart if He creates one in us?