

## Reflection Questions: Psalm 51:10-12

For the message, "Create in Me a Clean Heart" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on March 21, 2021

---

*These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to [MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages](http://MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages).*

### **INTRODUCTION**

**Pray.** Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

**Read the Scripture text:** Psalm 51

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID, WHEN NATHAN THE PROPHET WENT TO HIM, AFTER HE HAD GONE IN TO BATHSHEBA.

1 Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!

3 For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words  
and blameless in your judgment.

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward  
being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret  
heart.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

9 Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.

**10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

**11 Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

**12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

---

### **QUESTIONS**

**1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.**

- In verse 10, David calls on the Creator God to enter into his great work of creation once again. What do you make of the fact that David appeals to God for the creation of a new heart, and what do you think the implications are for this plea?
- In verse 11, David wants to be near to God. What do you learn about the change of heart that has already taken place in David? (Think about what he *wanted* in his sin against Bathsheba and Uriah, and what he *wants* now).

- Also consider: Do you think it is normal for a believer when he sins to feel the anxiety of verse 11? Discuss.
- In verse 12, David pleads for a restoration of joy. What is the connection between experiencing salvation and experiencing joy? What does it tell you when a believer is lacking joy?

## **2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.**

- Reflect on the fact that God in his providence recorded David's monumental failure in the Scriptures, as well as including and even inspiring this Psalm to not only be included in Scripture, but to be sung and prayed by His people? What do we learn about the community of faith as well as the dogged grace of God?
- How do you think we can grow as a community of people who are learning that we are more rebellious and sinful than we often have the courage to admit, and yet in Christ we can experience more of the love, embrace, forgiveness and acceptance of the Heavenly Father than we dare to dream possible?

## **3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.**

- Sin actually qualifies us for God's grace. Do you think this is a dominant note that Christians hit when they talk to people about the good news of Christianity?
- How do you think people in our community might respond to the invitation to find and experience the joy of salvation? How do you think we can communicate this to people in our city?

## CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

## PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_