

Reflection Questions: Psalm 51:13-17

For the message, "O God of My Salvation" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on March 28, 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.

INTRODUCTION

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

Read the Scripture text: Psalm 51:1-17

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.

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.
15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.
16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

QUESTIONS

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

- What do you think is the significance of David's desire to teach other transgressors and sinners? What do you think his disposition in teaching would be after his own tragic fall in sin and his experience of grace and mercy?

- What is the connection between experiencing the Creator God as the “God of my salvation” and specifically *singing* about God our Savior? What do you make of Phillip Ryken’s contention that “It is impossible to conceive of Biblical Christianity without songs of praise”?
- What comes to your mind when you think of a “broken spirit,” a “broken and contrite heart”?
 - If God does not despise these, then why do we resist “going there”? That is, why do we sometimes resist humbling ourselves before the Lord?

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

- If Christianity can be described as a “singing religion” because we have so much to sing about, then how should that inform our attitudes and signing when we gather together as a church? Or to put it another way, what should our singing look like, both in terms of praise and lament?
- What are some ways we can remind one another that God’s gaze is drawn to brokenness? That his grace actually flows freely to those who humble themselves?

3. Let’s think about how this text applies to our city.

- King David wants to tell other transgressors and sinners about God’s way with transgressors and sinners, namely that this God is a God of mercy, cleansing, creation of new hearts, who is drawn to humility. How do you think this should inform the way we talk with our fellow transgressors and sinners in Bryan-College Station about the Good News of Jesus?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study of Psalm 51 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....

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