“I Shall Be Clean” Prayer of Confession

“Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean;

wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”

Psalm 51:7

Confession

Confession: an admission or acknowledgment that one has done something that one is ashamed or embarrassed about.

Etymology: *homo logeo*. Same word. Acknowledgement.

Confession can be made to God, a person or persons, or publicly.

When have you been especially glad or relieved to get clean?

When have you been especially glad or relieved to get clean?

David messed up royally.

Neglecting his kingly responsibilities.

Seducing another man's wife.

Betraying an honorable man.

Making others complicit in the man's murder.

Stealing the man's wife.

Trying to cover his tracks.

Compromising his role and responsibility as king. Misusing his powers.

Endangering the Kingdom.

What about you?

What were his options, moving forward? What was necessary? What was possible?

When have you royally messed up?

When have you broken something you could not fixed or damaged something you could not restore?

Psalm 51: 1Have 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.

What does David ask the Lord to do for and with him?

Consider…

When you messed up so badly that you felt hopeless about what happened…

What did you long to see happen to you?

With the people involved?

What did you hope to see happen in the situation?

Have mercy on me, O God…

The word translated "mercy" in Psalm 51:1 is derived from the Hebrew verbal root *raham*, whose noun form *rehem* means "womb." God's mercy is tied closely to the concept of "womb love," the love a mother feels for her yet-to-be-born child. The psalmist repeatedly call upon God's steadfast love (*hesed*) and God's mercy (*raham*).

Commentary on Psalm 51, Nancy deClaisse-Walford *

Share:

What is David's greatest concern: the consequences of his actions?

Or the impact on his relationship with God?

What difference does this make in how David deals with his sin?

Application

What do we learn about confession from David’s example?

Is this really possible?

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.

What does it mean to you to be purged and made clean? What is that like?

What difference does that make in your relationships with God and others?

Consider…

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.

How does David dare to ask for this depth of restoration?

What hope does this give you for how God deals with your sin?

What do you think?

You know God can create a clean heart and renew a right spirit in you, secure you in his presence, fill you with his Holy Spirit, restore your joy, and uphold you with a willing spirit.

How confident are you that he will do these things?

David asked for things that only God could give or do:

Have mercy on me and blot out my transgressions…

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin…

Purge me with hyssop and wash me and I will be whiter than snow…

Let me hear joy and gladness and let the bones you have broken rejoice…

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities…

Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me…

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me…

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and renew a right spirit in me…

Share:

Is David asking too much?

What does he request that you also want to receive? What sounds really good to you?

Psalm 32: **Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,**
whose sin is covered.
2 Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah
5 I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

What is the condition of the one who has confessed sin and received forgiveness?
What is your part in this process?
What is God's?

What now?

What has God shown you about the practice of confession?

What is your response?

Jesus said…

“Your sins are forgiven.”

“Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Jesus said this to the woman who was known as a sinner. Luke 7: 48, 50

Dare to take his message to heart. Take him at his word.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6T7n1j03UZA&feature=youtu.be