**Sermon Notes**

**“Psalm 51: Joy Through Confession and Repentance”**

**Psalm 51**

*For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.*

1Have mercy on me, O God,

according to your unfailing love;

according to your great compassion

blot out my transgressions.

2Wash away all my iniquity

and cleanse me from my sin.

3For I know my transgressions,

and my sin is always before me.

4Against 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.

5Surely I was sinful at birth,

sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

6Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;

you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

7Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;

wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

8Let me hear joy and gladness;

let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

9Hide your face from my sins

and blot out all my iniquity.

10Create in me a pure heart, O God,

and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11Do not cast me from your presence

or take your Holy Spirit from me.

12Restore to me the joy of your salvation

and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

13Then I will teach transgressors your ways,

so that sinners will turn back to you.

14Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,

you who are God my Savior,

and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

15Open my lips, Lord,

and my mouth will declare your praise.

16You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;

you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

17My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart

you, God, will not despise.

18May it please you to prosper Zion,

to build up the walls of Jerusalem.

19Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous,

in burnt offerings offered whole;

then bulls will be offered on your altar.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. Which part of the sermon was most impactful, interesting, or thought-provoking for you? Why?

2. When was the last time you had an experience of God that made life “like living in a dream”? What did you learn about God from that experience?

3. When was the last time you experienced a desert place of pain and heartache? What did you learn about God from that experience?

4. What happens when we hold out the truth of point #1 to people who aren’t Christians while hiding point #2?

5. Can you attest to the truthfulness of the statement “If there is no grief, there is no newness”? Explain.

6. How does understanding Jesus as a “man of sorrows” change how you approach him in prayer?

**Prayer Prompters**

**-**Pray that we would be a community that learns to lament, individually and corporately.

**-**Pray for those within our church family that are walking through a desert space of loss, grief, sorrow, pain, or disorientation.

-Pray for those who find lament difficult due to seeing God as cold, distant, angry, or indifferent.

-Pray for those caring for those who are hurting within our community.

-Pray for God to meet the needs for our building campaign.

**Take Action:**

1. Find a Psalm of lament
2. Get alone
3. Lament (Pray, read, write the Psalm)