**“Coming Back”**

Going deeper in Psalm 51

**INTRODUCTION**

The following psalm is referred to as penitential psalms or a psalm of repentance. It teaches us about nature of God and our need for forgiveness. This psalm is one of the most well-known of these types of psalms.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 1 For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. 5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. 6 Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. 7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. 10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you. 14 Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. 15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. 16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. 18 In your good pleasure make Zion prosper; build up the walls of Jerusalem. 19 Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight you; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What are circumstances of the writing of this psalm according to verse 1?

2. Read 2 Samuel 11. How many different ways did David sin?

3. What do you think David is feeling as he is writing this psalm?

4. Since David’s sins involved and impacted others what do you think is the meaning of verse 4?

5. Genesis tells us that God created all things good. Why does humanity have the tendency to sin (see Romans 5:12-14)?

6. What is David asking God to do in verses 7-12?

7. In verses 17-19 it talks about a broken spirit and righteous sacrifices. When is a broken and contrite spirit enough? When are acts of sacrifice due?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Give thanks for the LORD’s unfailing love (hesed).

\*Confession is good for the soul – tell the LORD about ways you have sinned and ask Him for forgiveness.

\*Thank Him for forgiving you and giving you new life.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

There is no sin bigger than God’s unfailing love (hesed) and His corresponding forgiveness. Make it part of your daily practice to confess your sins and trust in His forgiveness. Then choose each day to live into the new life that the LORD Jesus has given to you.