

Lesson 11 / Psalm 51

New International Version

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

- 1 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.

New Living Translation

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins.
- 2 Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin.
- 3 For I recognize my shameful deeds— they haunt me day and night.
- 4 Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just.
- 5 For I was born a sinner— yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.
- 6 But you desire honesty from the heart, so you can teach me to be wise in my inmost being.
- 7 Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- 8 Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me— now let me rejoice.
- 9 Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt.
- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me.
- 11 Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me again the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.
- 13 Then I will teach your ways to sinners, and they will return to you.
- 14 Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves; then I will joyfully sing of your forgiveness.
- 15 Unseal my lips, O Lord, that I may praise you.
- 16 You would not be pleased with sacrifices, or I would bring them. If I brought you a burnt offering, you would not accept it.
- 17 The sacrifice you want is a broken spirit. A broken and repentant heart, O God, you will not despise.
- 18 Look with favor on Zion and help her; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
- 19 Then you will be pleased with worthy sacrifices and with our whole burnt offerings; and bulls will again be sacrificed on your altar.

Amplified Bible

1 HAVE MERCY upon me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to the multitude of Your tender mercy *and* loving-kindness blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly [and repeatedly] from my iniquity *and* guilt and cleanse me *and* make me wholly pure from my sin!

3 For I am conscious of my transgressions *and* I acknowledge them; my sin is ever before me.

4 Against You, You only, have I sinned and done that which is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified in Your sentence and faultless in Your judgment.

5 Behold, I was brought forth in [a state of] iniquity; my mother was sinful who conceived me [and I too am sinful].

6 Behold, You desire truth in the inner being; make me therefore to know wisdom in my inmost heart.

7 Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean [ceremonially]; wash me, and I shall [in reality] be whiter than snow.

8 Make me to hear joy and gladness *and* be satisfied; let the bones which You have broken rejoice.

9 Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my guilt *and* iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right, persevering, *and* steadfast 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 will I teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted *and* return to You.

14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness *and* death, O God, the God of my salvation, *and* my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness (Your rightness and Your justice).

15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

16 For You delight not in sacrifice, or else would I give it; You find no pleasure in burnt offering.

17 My sacrifice [the sacrifice acceptable] to God is a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart [broken down with sorrow for sin and humbly and thoroughly penitent], such, O God, You will not despise.

18 Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

19 Then will You delight in the sacrifices of righteousness, justice, *and* right, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering; then bullocks will be offered upon Your altar.

The Message

1 Generous in love—God, give grace! Huge in mercy—wipe out my bad record.

2 Scrub away my guilt, soak out my sins in your laundry.

3 I know how bad I've been; my sins are staring me down.

4 You're the One I've violated, and you've seen it all, seen the full extent of my evil. You have all the facts before you; whatever you decide about me is fair.

5 I've been out of step with you for a long time, in the wrong since before I was born.

6 What you're after is truth from the inside out. Enter me, then; conceive a new, true life.

7 Soak me in your laundry and I'll come out clean, scrub me and I'll have a snow-white life.

8 Tune me in to foot-tapping songs, set these once-broken bones to dancing.

9 Don't look too close for blemishes, give me a clean bill of health.

10 God, make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life.

11 Don't throw me out with the trash, or fail to breathe holiness in me.

12 Bring me back from gray exile, put a fresh wind in my sails!

13 Give me a job teaching rebels your ways so the lost can find their way home.

14 Commute my death sentence, God, my salvation God, and I'll sing anthems to your life-giving ways.

15 Unbutton my lips, dear God; I'll let loose with your praise.

16 Going through the motions doesn't please you, a flawless performance is nothing to you.

17 I learned God-worship when my pride was shattered. Heart-shattered lives ready for love don't for a moment escape God's notice.

18 Make Zion the place you delight in, repair Jerusalem's broken-down walls.

19 Then you'll get real worship from us, acts of worship small and large, including all the bulls they can heave onto your altar!