

The Transforming Friendship

The Discipline of Service – Psalm 51

Read/Reflect

1. Read Psalm 51, (if necessary refer back to II Samuel 11 & 12 for the background to the Psalm).
 - then read it again listening for one thing that stands out to you in the psalm.
 - Read the psalm a third time to consider what God might be saying to you.
 - And finally read the psalm simply to rest in it.
2. Did reading the psalm in the above manner help you to listen and focus on God's living word, rather than perhaps just too quickly or anxiously draw an application from the psalm?

Explore

3. How do you tend to "handle" your sin? What generally results from that method?

• Ignore it.	• Beat myself up	• Admit it.
• Excuse it.	• Justify it.	• Let it accuse me
• Blame someone.	• Confess it.	• Cover it up
4. How do we sometimes make false confessions? What are some obstacles to making confessions and how could we help each other overcome them?
5. There is confession we can make to God, and to others. Is one more important than the other? Which one do you prefer? What is meant by the statement about confession in verse 4, do you think? How could we misuse that perspective?
6. If Psalm 51:7-12 describe a process of forgiveness from God, where might you place yourself in general or given a specific confessed sin in your life:

<input type="checkbox"/> cleanse me,	<input type="checkbox"/> create a pure heart,	<input type="checkbox"/> don't cast me from your presence,
<input type="checkbox"/> let me hear joy,	<input type="checkbox"/> renew a steadfast spirit,	<input type="checkbox"/> restore joy,
<input type="checkbox"/> hide your face from my sin,		<input type="checkbox"/> grant a willing spirit
7. Does one person's sin effect the life of a group. How does Psalm 51 end to reflect on that?

Pray

- ADMIT: acknowledge our sin, the depth of sin, the seriousness and offense of sin.
- SURRENDER: humbly hand over the burden of sin to God
- RESTORED: seek forgiveness and mercy
- LIVE: rejoice in God's salvation, celebrate the hope we have, and commit to sharing the blessing of forgiveness.