

Friday

Please read Psalm 51:16–17. Sometimes we wish that God just wanted us to “do” things for Him, that all was required of us were our actions.

Focus today on the words, “My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart...” What would the sacrifice of a broken heart and spirit look like in your struggle? What holds you back from doing that?

Thank God today there is help for your struggles and there is a way back when you fall. Pray that your heart will be soft and your spirit will be willing to offer the sacrifice of a broken spirit and contrite heart.

Saturday

Please read Psalm 40, the Psalm we’ll be studying this weekend. What initially strikes you as you read this psalm? In what way can you relate to the psalmist?

Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray that we will grow closer together as a church body and at the same time more effective at reaching our community with the good news of God’s grace and love.



TWIN LAKES
CHURCH
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WEEK 3

How to Get It Right When You Got It Wrong

MARCH 12 & 13, 2011 • RENÉ SCHLAEFFER • PSALM 51

For I know my transgressions, and **my sin is always before me.** *Psalm 51:3*

Setting the context: 2 Samuel 11–12

How to get back on track...

1. Look honestly at _____

- I’m _____ **for my actions**

Have mercy on **me**, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out **my** transgressions. Wash away all **my** iniquity and cleanse **me** from **my** sin. *Psalm 51:1–2 NIV*

- I’m _____, **not just making a mistake**

Against 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. *Psalm 51:4*

- I’m _____ **to sin even more!**

Surely I was **sinful at birth**, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. *Psalm 51:5 (See also Psalm 32)*

2. Look hopefully to _____

- **For** _____

Cleanse me with hyssop, and **I will** be clean; **wash me**, and **I will** be whiter than snow. *Psalm 51:7*

- **For** _____

Let me hear **joy** and **gladness**; let the bones you have crushed **rejoice.** *Psalm 51:8*

- **For** _____

Create in me a **pure heart**, O God, and renew a **steadfast spirit** within me. *Psalm 51:10*

...grant me a **willing spirit**, to sustain me. *Psalm 51:12b*

3. Look helpfully to _____

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and **my tongue will sing** of your righteousness. Open my lips, Lord, and **my mouth will declare** your praise. *Psalm 51:13–15*

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise. *Psalm 51:16–17*

BOTTOM LINE: God wants my _____, not mere _____

Daily Meditations

Monday

Please read through Psalm 51. What do you learn about getting back on track spiritually in this passage?

What is something you learned about turning back to God from last weekend's sermon?

In what way are you struggling to get back on track right now?

Have you ever struggled with even *wanting* to turn away from sin and back to God? In what way?

How did last weekend's sermon encourage you?

Thank God today for this passage that deals with the reality of getting back on track spiritually. Talk to Him about the area(s) of your life where you're struggling with turning back to God. Ask God to help you grow in your confidence in His forgiveness and His strength to help you turn back to Him.

Tuesday

Please read Psalm 51:1–5. Whew! It can be easier to be self-condemning than honest, but self-condemnation isn't productive — honesty is! Why does getting back on track have to start with being honest with myself?

Think about an area of your life where you may currently struggle to turn toward God. Answer the questions on the next page honestly — not curtly, not dramatically — but honestly:

What responsibility for your actions do you need to take in this struggle?

In what way is this struggle sin?

In what way have you opened the door to “entertaining” this struggle even more?

As you go to prayer today, talk to God honestly about your struggles and your sins. First, lay them before Him — say them out loud! Secondly, thank God that He hears you and that He loves you completely no matter what you just confessed to Him. Ask Him to give you the strength to turn away from your struggle in some way today.

Wednesday

Please read Psalm 51:7–12. Slowly read this passage through several times.

Which words, phrases or images stand out to you and why?

How is a willing spirit essential?

As you pray today, personalize these verses and pray them back to God.

Thursday

Please read Psalm 51:13–15. Recall a time when reaching out to others helped you in a struggle you were facing.

Think about David's choices in these verses. How can you:

- Show others God's ways?
- Praise God with your words?
- Tell others of God's help and goodness?

How can a focus on praising God help you in the current struggles you are facing?

Thank God today that the struggles you've had can be used for to help others. Pray that you'll be willing to help others and honest enough to admit your struggles. Spend an extended time in prayer praising God for His goodness and love for you.



Memory Verse

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. *Psalm 51:1 NIV*