

**“Essential Elements of Confession and Forgiveness”
PSALM 51**

[A] Mercy is **NOT** getting what you deserve! Justice is getting what you **DO** deserve! You’ve got it coming; that’s justice!

1) David Recognized God is the **SOURCE** of Forgiveness -v1

2) Forgiveness Always Includes **CLEANSING** -v2, 7a

[B] It is the Lord’s merciful **PURSUIT** that **leads** us to repentance and confession of our sin!

3) David Recognized God’s **PROVISION** for Forgiveness -v7b

4) Forgiveness Requires that I **ACKNOWLEDGE** My Sin -v3, 6

5) David Recognized the **SPIRITUAL IMPACT** of his Sin -v4

6) David Recognized his **UNWORTHINESS** due to the Nature of Sin -v5

7) Forgiveness Changes **GUILT** to **JOY** -v8-10

8) Forgiveness Leads to **FELLOWSHIP** with God -v11, 12

[C] Do you have too much of **JESUS** to be happy in the World...
...and too much of the **WORLD** to be happy in Jesus?
Confession restores our Joy!

9) Forgiveness Opens My Heart and Mouth to **SING** and **SHARE** with Others -v13-15

10) Forgiveness Leads to **TRUE WORSHIP** -v16-17

11) Forgiveness Opens My Eyes and Heart to the **NEEDS** of Others -v18-19

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[A] Mercy is _____ getting what you deserve! **Justice** is getting what you _____ deserve! You’ve got it coming; that’s justice!

1) David Recognized God is the _____ of Forgiveness -v1

2) Forgiveness Always Includes _____ -v2, 7a

[B] It is the Lord’s merciful _____ that **brings** us to repentance and confession of our sin!

3) David Recognized God’s _____ for Forgiveness -v7b

4) Forgiveness Requires that I _____ My Sin -v3, 6

5) David Recognized the _____ of his Sin -v4

6) David Recognized his _____ due to the Nature of Sin -v5

7) Forgiveness Changes _____ to _____ -v8-10

8) Forgiveness Leads to _____ with God -v11, 12

[C] Do you have too much of _____ to be happy in the World...
...and too much of the _____ to be happy in Jesus?
Confession restores our Joy!

9) Forgiveness Opens My Heart and Mouth to _____ and _____ with Others -v13-15

10) Forgiveness Leads to _____ -v16-17

11) Forgiveness Opens My Eyes and Heart to the _____ of Others -v18-19

- 6) This week Pastor Don said, “*Sinning* doesn’t make me a sinner. I sin because I am a sinner.” What do you think this means?

How does this idea affect our attempt to justify ourselves?

APPLICATION FOR TODAY

- 7) Take some time to remember how much God has forgiven *you*. Then, write at least a few lines of your *own* Psalm 51. (Your own prayer of praise and thanksgiving for Jesus’ forgiveness of your sin)

- 8) What are one or two things you most need to remember about God’s forgiveness?

- 9) What do you most need to apply or remember from this week’s message or homework?

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶
- ▶
- ▶

Life Group Homework For the week of January 15, 2023

Welcome to Life Groups in 2023! The following questions will be used for discussion at this week’s life groups. Please answer all of the questions before your life group, so you’re most prepared to share! If you’re not yet in a life group, it’s not too late to sign up! They are the best way to get connected and grow spiritually at Open Gate.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- 1) What are one or two highlights from your last six weeks?

REVIEW

- 2) In your own words, what is the David and Bathsheba story? What were some of the main points in Psalm 51?

- 3) What stood out to you from this week’s message?

DIGGING DEEPER

- 4) Read the following passage, making note of any highlights or questions you have.

Luke 7:36-50 - [36] Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee’s house, and sat down to eat. [37] And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, [38] and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she

began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil. [39] Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner." [40] And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So he said, "Teacher, say it." [41] "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. [42] "And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?" [43] Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged." [44] Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. [45] "You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. [46] "You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. [47] "Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little." [48] Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." [49] And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" [50] Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

Why do you think Jesus allowed this sinful woman to anoint Him and wash His feet? (go deeper than simply "He loved her")

Why did the Pharisee struggle with this idea?
In what ways are we tempted to be like the Pharisee today?

In verse 47, Jesus says that the woman's sins are forgiven because "*she loved much*". In verse 50, Jesus said her *faith* had saved her. What was it that saved her? Her faith, or her works? Why?

Jesus explained that those who are forgiven much, love much. Therefore, it can be a *good* thing to remember our sins and failures that Jesus has forgiven - so we can renew our love for Him. Do you think there can be dangers to remembering our sins and failures? If so, what are they?

In verse 49, the people were shocked that Jesus declared her sins to be forgiven. What stands out to you from the following quote?

"We can all understand how a man forgives offenses against himself. You tread on my toes and I forgive you, you steal my money and I forgive you. But what should we make of a man, himself unrobbed and untrodden on, who announced that he forgave you for treading on other men's toes and stealing other men's money? Asinine fatuity is the kindest description we should give of his conduct. Yet this is what Jesus did. He told people that their sins were forgiven, and never waited to consult all the other people whom their sins had undoubtedly injured. He unhesitatingly behaved as if He was the party chiefly concerned, the person chiefly offended in all offenses. This makes sense only if He really was the God whose laws are broken and whose love is wounded in every sin." - C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

5) What do you think the following quote means?
"The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us." - C.S. Lewis