



In the final stretch of Psalm 51, David anticipates how he will respond to God's mercy. The psalmist first approached the Lord in a spirit of *repentance* as he confessed his sin (1-5). Next, he prayed for *restoration* (6-9) asking to be washed and purified. This led him to pray for complete *renewal* from within and a clean heart (10-12). The last lyrics in verses 13-19 are written from the perspective of his *response* to the grace of God in his life. David endured the dark night of the soul because of his sin, but awakened to new morning mercies and ready to tell of all God has done. We will study his response under three headings: *Proclamation and Praise* (13-15), *Wonder and Worship* (16-17), and *Edification and Restoration* (18-19).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Psalm 51 is not primarily a story about David's sin, but instead is a story of God's mercy. What is the story of God's mercy in your life?
2. Consider the story of Peter from the sermon introduction. How did Peter respond to the sin of denying Jesus three times? What was Jesus' role in restoring Peter? How does Jesus restore us when we sin?
3. Proclamation and praise are two of the responses we see from David at the end of Psalm 51. How do we see these themes play out in the weekly corporate worship gathering? Who has God placed in your life that you need to proclaim the good news of Jesus to?
4. Because the Old Testament Law made no provisions for adultery or murder, there was no sacrifice that David could make to put things right between him and God. He could only bring the Lord a broken and contrite spirit. What does a broken and contrite heart look like?
5. Matt noted that all major movements of revival in the past have been first precipitated by widespread repentance. Why is repentance a necessary prerequisite for spiritual restoration and renewal? How should we as a church rightly expect and prepare for revival in our context?

PRAY: Eugene Peterson said that "most of scripture speaks to us, but the Psalms speak for us." Use Psalm 51 as a model prayer for repentance. Then move to praying for edification (that the Lord would build up the people of The Trails) and for restoration (that God would heal the brokenness in us and that those in sin would be made right with God).