



BY STREAMS OF LIVING WATER

A Six-Part Worship Series on the Psalms

3. Clean Hearts

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Sermon Series Focus

For the most profound and enduring prayers of all time, both Christians and Jews look to the Psalms.

These timeless writings become our words when we have none. With vivid word pictures that capture our imagination, and in the beautiful artistry of the language, we will discover that the Psalms are empowering for faith as we learn to sing and pray them together in sincere devotion to God.

Sermon Series Purpose

- Deepen our individual and corporate prayer lives through the reading and study of the Psalms, as well as expand our appreciation for biblical literature
- Understand and experience a wider variety of personal and corporate prayer (e.g. desire, praise, confession, lament, justice, thanksgiving, etc.)
- Rediscover the power of faith that is not meant to be solely expressed intellectually, but emotionally as well; seeing that music, art, ritual, and passion are holy

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1. Soul Thirst (desire & longing)
2. Duty & Delight (praise & gratitude)
- 3. Clean Hearts** (confession & renewal)
4. Tears of Lament (disorientation & lament)
5. Rains of Justice (vengeance & vindication)
6. Giving Thanks (thanksgiving & hope)

Clean Hearts

- God is responsible for the fact of freedom, but we are responsible for our acts of freedom; Sin is a free act of rebellion against God and results in alienation.
- In Psalm 51, we read about David's brokenness and his confession, as well as his desire to repent of his sin. This psalm reveals that David understands the power and purpose of confession: confession as "truth-telling" can bring healing, forgiveness, and restoration!
- In order to receive and maintain clean hearts—staying in touch with God's presence and power—we must be a confessing people, honest with ourselves, others, and God.

Psalm 51 NIV

*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.

* 2 Samuel 11-12

Psalm 51:3-6 NIV

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 you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.

⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

⁶ Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

Psalm 51:7-9 NIV

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.

Psalm 51:10-12 NIV

- 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.

Psalm 51:13-17 NIV

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.

¹⁴ Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

¹⁵ Open my lips, Lord,
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 My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.

The Character of God & the Psalmist's Condition

YAHWEH

1. Mercy
2. Steadfast Love
3. Great Compassion

Yahweh is faithful.

King David

1. Sin (sinner)
2. Transgression
3. Iniquity

The psalmist is alienated.

“It is the wager of the psalmist and the deep conviction of ancient Israel that YHWH’s mercy and steadfastness will override and serve as a decisive alternative to sin, transgression, and iniquity.”

Walter Brueggemann, *Psalms* (NCBC - pg.236)

Jesus reveals God as merciful, loving, and compassionate Father—ready to forgive our sins

Luke 15:18-20 NIV “Parable of the Prodigal Son”

¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

Luke 15:21-24 NIV

²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate.

²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

1 John 1:5-7 NIV

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

1 John 1:8-9 NIV

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

“Make this your common practice:
Confess your sins to each other and pray for each
other so that you can live together whole and
healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is
something powerful to be reckoned with.”

James 5:16 MSG



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Sermon audio & slides in PDF can be downloaded at:
www.christiansburgmennonite.org