



Psalm 51 (NIV)

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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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. **My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.**
- ¹⁸ May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem.
- ¹⁹ Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

You see your present, reflect on your past and you want to give up on yourself.



SERMON NOTES

The Broken Pieces

Where is hope rising when you want to give up?

ACKNOWLEDGE the broken pieces

“I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.” Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we *blind* too?” John 9:39-40

Will you become **better** or will you become **bitter**?

Will you place **blame** or accept a **better** plan?

BRING the broken pieces to God

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. Ps 51:16

CONFIDENCE in Christ

“He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously **give us** all things?” Romans 8:32

A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he has brought justice through to victory. Mt 12:20

“**Now what are you waiting for?** Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.” Acts 22:16

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 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. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

God doesn't give up on you.

Don't deny God the opportunity to bring Healing.

God Pursues

This is your day, this is your moment

Acts 22:16 "Now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash away your sins calling on his name."

Circumstantial broken is purifying

In this world you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world.

People broken is perpetual.

Hurt people Hurt People

Choice broken is personal.

"How can a young person live a good life? By carefully reading the map of your Word. I'm single-minded in pursuit of you; don't let me miss the road signs you've posted." Psalm 119:9-11 (msg)

This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and **walk in it**, and you will find rest for your souls. Jeremiah 6:16

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will **teach you** all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:26

¹⁶ Let the message about Christ completely fill your lives, while you use all your wisdom to teach and instruct each other. With thankful hearts, sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. Colossians 3:16 (CEV)

But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely. Galatians 5:22-23 (Msg)

Faith is what drives you into the future.

Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path. For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you. Proverbs 2:9-11

SACRED JOURNEY

Lent is one of the most ancient and universal practices of the Christian world. It involves 40 days of preparation for the pinnacle of our faith, which is Easter Sunday. Lent includes uncomfortable emphases like repentance, sacrifice, and submission. The historic practice of Lent does not pander to us with quick fixes or self-help platitudes. Lent calls us to discipline. Even though the season may entail "giving up" some things, worship of the risen Christ supersedes all else.

What is the primary spiritual journey of Lent?

Lent is a time to intentionally travel the road with Jesus toward his death and resurrection, so that we become more personally connect to Him in our daily living.

Why does Lent emphasize fasting, prayer, and giving to the poor?

Fasting from food, or something else, is a symbol of the discipline it takes to turn away from sin. Prayer is the act of turning to God in dependence. Giving to the poor is the symbol of the virtue we are taking on to replace our sin.

What is a suggested discipline for Lent?

These disciplines are external practices that we engage in, trusting God will use them to bring greater spiritual awareness:

- Deny yourself a specific regular pleasure or vice for the 40 days leading to Easter (such as sweets, alcohol, tobacco, watching tv, reading the newspaper, facebooking, or ____).
- Replace that time with Bible reading and prayer, or use the money you save to give to the poor.
- Fast completely (except for water) from Good Friday sunset until Easter Sunday (either before or after worship), in anticipation of the fullness of life offered through Jesus' resurrection.
- Invite an unchurched friend or family member to celebrate Easter worship with you.
- Celebrate Easter as an intentional 'Resurrection Feast.' Be specific and joyful about it!

Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage
And then is heard no more: it is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing. (Macbeth, Scene V)