**HAVE MERCY ON ME, O GOD**

Psalm 51:1-19 (Read also 2 Samuel 11:1-12:13)

Key Verses: Psalm 51:1-2, “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.”

1. According to the psalm’s subtitle, what was the circumstance for writing this psalm (cf. 2 Sam 11:1-12:13)? Which of God’s laws in the Ten Commandments did David break in this event (ref.Ex 20:1-17; Two are obvious, but it’s more than that)? What reasons do people have for not avoiding sin or not confessing it (Prov 28:13)?

1. How was David rebuked and led to repentance and when was he forgiven (2Sam 12:13)? David’s repentance was so heart-felt that he wrote Psalm 51. Read it again, understanding the circumstances, noting his spirit and repeated words.
2. On what basis, does David ask for forgiveness (1-2; Ex 34:6-7a)? How does David accept responsibility for his sin rather than justifying it or covering it up any more (3-6)?
3. In verses 7-12, what does he pray to be rid of, and what does he pray to receive? In verses 13-15, besides being free of guilt, what is a blessed consequence of forgiveness?
4. What does David know is more acceptable to God than burnt offerings and sacrifices (16-17)? How does David pray not only for himself but for his nation/community (18-19)?
5. According to Jesus, how is anyone guilty in spirit of breaking God’s commandments regarding adultery and murder (Mt 5:21-22,27-28)? Read Luke 18:9-14. Based on these verses, what kind of prayer is acceptable and unacceptable to God? What have you learned about repentant prayer?