

DAY 22

MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 20

"Some people think God does not like to be troubled with our constant coming and asking. The way to trouble God is not to come at all." —D.L. Moody

"You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God." Psalm 51:16-17

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Since we have four boys under the age of 12, apologizing is something that happens often in the Whitley home. Any other parents have a testimony? So, something my wife and I instruct our boys in is that an apology must have 3 things. Eye contact, saying I'm sorry and confessing your mistake, and then asking for forgiveness. This kind of apology is not only beneficial for the one receiving it, but also for the one asking.

Psalm 51 is King David's infamous apology to God. It's his prayer of confession and repentance after his affair with Bathsheba, getting her pregnant, and then arranging the murder of her husband, Uriah, to cover it up (2 Sam 11-12). This prayer can be a sort of "how to" for our own confession to God and repentance. David's cry for mercy, admission of sin, and desire of renewed commitment are all great examples for us in our own prayer.

But where did David find his confidence to go before God? After all, he had just made some colossal mistakes. Read vv 16-17. David's hope before God wasn't in the right words, acts of penance, or sacrifice. David's hope before God was in knowing the truth of God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

Repentance is not only turning away from sin; it's also bringing our brokenness to the Father.

Is the truth of God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness, (given in and through Jesus Christ) what leads you to confession and repentance or is it a belief that you need to perform for God trying to earn forgiveness? Go to God today with a broken and repentant heart over your sin, but also with the truth that you are already forgiven in Jesus Christ.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Lord, my prayer today is, "Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me." In the guilt and shame of my sin, I find freedom by seeking your forgiveness. Forgive me for taking and holding sin in my life and thank you for the promise that you will not reject a broken and repentant heart. Thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, who shed His blood for my sins, so that I may be forgiven. I praise You for that incredible gift! In my new life in Jesus, I turn from sin and bring my brokenness to you. Thank you for making me whole again.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Lord, as I've received your incredible gift of a new life in Jesus Christ and the forgiveness of my sins, I pray for _____ to also receive you. May I be faithful today to pray for _____, but to also share the truth of my need for you and demonstrate to them the love you have given me. Amen.

REPENT



Contributed by Cameron Whitley, Lead Pastor | West Lake Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG