

## Month of Opportunity

### Week 5

#### The Opportunity to Continue.

#### Psalm 51:1-19 (KJV)

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup> For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin *is* ever before me.

<sup>4</sup> Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, *and* be clear when thou judgest.

<sup>5</sup> Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

<sup>6</sup> Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden *part* thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup> Make me to hear joy and gladness; *that* the bones *which* thou hast broken may rejoice.

<sup>9</sup> Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit.

<sup>13</sup> *Then* will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

<sup>14</sup> Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: *and* my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.

<sup>15</sup> O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

<sup>16</sup> For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give *it*: thou delightest not in burnt offering.

<sup>17</sup> The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

<sup>18</sup> Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.

<sup>19</sup> Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

Sometimes... we miss the opportunity. Sometimes, we miss God's will for us in a circumstance.

This Psalm gives us an amazing look at God's grace. It gives us an amazing look at God's forgiveness, yet it also gives us an insight into how to get up and go again.

1. Missed an opportunity -own it. V1

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy upon me

Literally apologise. Say you missed it. The thing is not only owning it but going to God and saying – my fault, help me out here please.

Notice v3

<sup>3</sup> For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

OK this is not just talking about the opportunities we miss, but all the sin we commit. All the mistakes we make. The author, David then goes on to point out his state of sinfulness. Do we need to do this? Sometimes, although God knows but sometimes we need to articulate it to ourselves. Identify all the issues at hand. Spell it out so we get an understanding of what has been done or missed.

Staying in the “missed it” state is not an option.

Look at the messed up people God used.

Moses said I can't do it because I am not a good talker

Gideon hid himself away

Samson had a thing for the ladies

David murdered and committed adultery

Elijah ran away and sulked

Jonah skipped out and sulked too

Ezekiel complained,

Jeremiah felt nothing ever went his way

John ran away, Peter Denied Jesus,

Paul tried to kill off Christians

AND THAT IS JUST IN THE BIBLE. WHAT ABOUT CHURCH HISTORY.

We haven't got time to look at all that!

God seems really interested in recycling. He recycles His people all the time.

The whole book of Judges is a recycled people story.

People sinned, God dealt with their by a type of punishment, the people worked it out and said sorry, God heard their apology and forgave them, God provided a way out ( a judge type

person,) he rescues them, then they live for a while in the glow of God's Grace till they forget and it all happens again, and again, and again.

The author in Psalm 51 not only acknowledges his sin but he wants God to put it into action a redemption plan, a plan to fix it.

Look at verse 10.

**<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.**

2. **Want more opportunity- get with God's program**

God's program is being right with Him. Recognising who God is and who we are, recognising His Godness and our inadequacy to be like God.

So we need to say to God- please give me the tools to deal with this situation. Notice the author is asking God to deal with David's heart. Deal with the deep down issue.

**Psalm 51 continues:**

**Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.**

**<sup>12</sup> Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit.**

**<sup>13</sup> *Then* will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.**

3. **An opportunity to develop**

It's a process not a single event, I mentioned last week, prayer, devotion, being prepared by God to be ready for opportunity. We need to place ourselves in situations to be processed, prepared and developed. Notice the reference to the Holy Spirit. "Take not thy Holy Spirit from me".

Really as a Christian is there anything scarier than to loose that connection with God? The passage suggests that David wanted that connection to continue. Why? David had seen Saul loose the Holy Spirit. It was in his mind, it's possible- he didn't want to loose that.

Note too the comment to restore – get back to the original. Ie restoring a car or hit ridding a car- different purpose, different result.

But the big note here is: v13

***Then* will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.**

The result of being right with God, having that connection is opportunity.

**1. Teach transgressors God's ways.**

**2. Converting sinners.**

Woooo, big stuff here.

: it's interesting though, all this leads to the opportunity to worship.

O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

<sup>16</sup> For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give *it*: thou delightest not in burnt offering.

<sup>17</sup> The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

<sup>18</sup> Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.

<sup>19</sup> Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

**Opportunities come and what happens, we see God work and we get to praise and worship Him.**

O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise

It sounds like there that when our lips open we can't help but worship

When we are right with God, when we are open to God's correction and processing, when we are opening to God's direction, when we are open to God's opportunities – it all leads to heart felt love and worship. Sunday then becomes an experience thanking and praising God for the opportunities He has given us during the week, and preparing us for the next lot of opportunities.

If we miss an opportunity, we get our relationship with God back on track and keep going. That is the story of the bible. V17 – sacrifice, repent honestly and get on with the process.

17. The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

So where have we come:

I don't think missing an opportunity is the end, sometimes it is a beginning – a beginning to rethink where we are at with God.

I do think God will continue to give us opportunities.

I do think God will prepare us for those opportunities

I do think God wants us to see His work and react to it in worship.