

# GAME OF THRONES

THE REIGN OF DAVID

## Biblical Confession and Repentance

### Key idea:

Psalm 51 offers a comprehensive description of the traits and fruits of biblical confession and repentance for sin.

### Key text:

#### Psalm 51

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup>Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. <sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. <sup>4</sup>Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. <sup>5</sup>Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. <sup>6</sup>Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. <sup>7</sup>Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. <sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. <sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. <sup>10</sup>Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. <sup>11</sup>Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. <sup>13</sup>Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you. <sup>14</sup>Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. <sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. <sup>16</sup>You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. <sup>17</sup>The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. <sup>18</sup>In your good pleasure make Zion prosper; build up the walls of Jerusalem. <sup>19</sup>Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight you; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

### Key points:

1. Psalm 51 is the most comprehensive example of a prayer of confession and repentance in the Scripture. As such it is an excellent model for our own confession and repentance from sin.

2. Psalm 51 gives six traits of true confession and repentance:
  - a. Confession & repentance are based on God's grace.
  - b. Confession and repentance openly acknowledge my sin.
  - c. Confession and repentance recognize that all sin is ultimately against God.
  - d. Confession and repentance recognize the depth of sin in me.
  - e. Confession and repentance desire to be forgiven and cleansed.
  - f. Confession and repentance recognize the need for internal change that only God can bring about
3. Psalm 51 gives two major fruits of confession and repentance:
  - a. Confession and repentance lead us to tell others of God's grace.
  - b. Confession and repentance lead to praise and worship.

### **Questions for discussion/application:**

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Why must all true confession and repentance be based upon God's grace and mercy? Does God owe you forgiveness? Do you have reason to believe He will be merciful to you?
3. Why do we find it so hard to openly acknowledge our sin? Can you think of times in your life when you tried to "spin" your sin instead of confessing it? Why did you do that?
4. How could David say "Against you, and you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight"? Didn't he sin against Bathsheba, Uriah, and others? Why does he say this? Why is all sin ultimately sin against God?
5. How deep is sin in you? Is it merely external actions, or does it arise from deep within? Do you simply need to confess individual acts of sin or a sinful nature that runs through all you do?
6. Why do we experience guilt over sin? Why do we feel such a need to be cleansed from our sin and guilt?
7. How does David's description of cleansing via blood sprinkled by hyssop point forward to Christ? What is the only basis for forgiveness and cleansing from sin?
8. Why is the desire to be internally changed an important part of true confession? Is it possible to truly confess sin without a desire to be changed?

9. The BRCC catechism (Question 33) defines repentance this way: “Repentance is when a person becomes aware of their sin, grieves over and hates it, and turns from their sin to God, seeking mercy in Christ.” How do you see this in Psalm 51? Do you see this in your own life?
10. Where do we get the power to be changed? Can we produce this change in ourselves? If not, how does the Spirit work to change us?
11. Why does the forgiveness that comes after confession and repentance lead us to worship? Why does it lead us to tell others about the grace and mercy of God?
12. Can you think of someone with whom you can share what you have learned this week? Pray for them and ask God to open a door for you to share His Word this week.

**Preview of next week:**

Title: The Blessings of Forgiveness

Text: Psalm 32