



SERMON PREP GUIDE

January 13, 2019

READING GOD'S WORD

Matthew 6:12, 14-15; Psalm 51:1-12

DISCUSSING GOD'S WORD

1. In our text in Matthew this week, Jesus illustrates that forgiveness is two-fold. Who do we seek forgiveness from and to whom do we extend forgiveness?
2. Jesus makes the same point two different ways – for emphasis - in Matthew 6:14-15, in both the positive and the negative. What is He fundamentally teaching the crowd in these verses?
3. What is David's plea to the LORD in verse 1 of Psalm 51? What does "mercy" mean? What characteristics of God does David list in this verse?
4. David then proceeds to ask for forgiveness in three parallel ways in verses 1-2. What does he say?
5. Look through Psalm 51:1-11 and take note of how David gives ownership to his sin ('my'). By contrast, notice what he attributes to the LORD ('your'). In a similar vein, observe how he recognizes the power of God - that He is the only One who is capable of cleansing, creating, renewing, restoring, and upholding.

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

1. An essential truth to a biblical worldview is the concept of original sin. Where in our Psalm 51 passage does King David touch on this? How does this truth make the gospel message urgent for those who have never heard?
2. Who does David list that sin is ultimately against in this passage? Why is that important in our understanding of the gospel – particularly in regard to the character of God?
3. We all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (see Romans 3:23). We are all in need of God's forgiveness and His work of restoration in our lives. What sins do you need to personally confess to Him?
4. The hope of reconciliation is a key component of the gospel. Is there someone you need to forgive and seek reconciliation with this week? How do we practically do this in our lives?

PRAYING THE WORD

- » Our Father in heaven, forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors; for it is against You, and You only, that we have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight.
- » We give thanks with grateful hearts for Your abundant mercy.
- » Praise You, LORD, for You have washed us thoroughly from our iniquities and cleansed us from our sins.
- » Create in us clean hearts and renew within us right spirits so that we may serve You.