

Lesson 4 - Psalms of Appeal

Psalms 3; 25; 51; 61; 69; 86

1. Psalm 3 - From what did David seek salvation in this psalm?
2. Psalm 51 - For what did David ask in this psalm? What occasion for the psalm is indicated in the heading?
3. Psalm 51:5 is sometimes employed as support for Original Sin or Total Depravity (all humans are born with sin inherited from Adam). What figure of speech was used by David to exaggerate his own sinfulness? Consider the same figure of speech in Psalm 58:3.
4. Psalm 51 - List some metaphors David used to describe God's forgiveness.
5. Psalm 51 - What had David seen that may have inspired his request in v. 11? (1 Sam. 16:14)
6. Psalm 51 - What are the first sacrifices the child of God who sins should offer?
7. See the handout on "Imprecatory Psalms." Read Psalms 10:15; 58:6-8; and 69:22-28. Explain how such requests are consistent with love, mercy, and forgiveness. What sort of people do these psalms ask God to punish? What are some intended outcomes (Psa. 10:17-18; 58:11; 69:32; 83:16, 18)?

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8. What metaphors did the psalmists use to describe God in these verses:

a) Psa. 3:3

b) Psa. 31:2

c) Psa. 57:1

d) Psa. 80:1

9. What did the psalmists request in these verses:

a) Psa. 25:7

b) Psa. 25:20

c) Psa. 80:3

d) Psa. 86:11

e) Psa. 86:16

f) Psa. 139:23-24

10. Psalmists often appealed to God. What kinds of needs expressed in the psalms can we relate to? Are there any psalms you find to be especially relevant today or encouraging to you?