

Title: Create in Me a Clean Heart

Scripture: Psalm 51:1-13

Speaker: Josh Maness

Event: Sunday Evening Service

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Psalm 51:1-13 *“Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. 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. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.”*

There are three possible states of action that a church can be in. They can be:

- a. Under-taking -
- b. Care-taking – don’t change anything; leave everything the way it is
- c. Risk-taking – what Christ is calling us to be

If you’ve ever been in a state of true revival, what has changed since then that leaves you without it now? The Great Awakening was an event that happened in the 1700’s. For years and years, men and women were turning away from God and turning to the world. Many people believed that in Germany was where the Great Awakening began. They realized that they were ready to turn away from the world and submit to God. They took a night where they prayed and prayed and prayed and it lasted for days. From this spark, the Great Awakening took off. George Whitfield, Charles and John Edwards, and many other men and women were used by God to revive those in their areas. We all claim that Billy Graham is the great evangelist in our day, but what will happen when he passes on? Who will take his place? The answer is simple: no one if we don’t start praying about it now. II Chronicles 7:14 says *“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”* Revival can only come from the people of God – just like the verse from Chronicles says. Our world is wicked and out of the will of God. Do we expect the makers of pornography to start revival? Do we expect the CEO of Budweiser to start revival? No. We don’t. We look to those who are already serving the Lord. The children of God are the only ones who can do that. Are you a child of God? Is Christ your one and only? The biggest hindrance to revival is not the wicked in the world, but the slothfulness of our own selves. Revival will cost us our time and energy. It might cost us some of our favorite TV shows or missing a ballgame. We question God and ask him why he doesn’t send a revival, we need to think why would God send a revival to a majority of people who are half-way committed to him? Many Christians are wishy-washy and are barely doing the minimum needed. They read their small section of verses without meditating and simply pray blessings over their food without really talking to God and without meditating on his word.

How God Creates a Clean Heart Within Us:

1. **We have to be honest with Him:** We need to ask God to reveal “us” to “us”. We need to know about ourselves and get honest with ourselves. We can’t honestly want revival when there’s still sin in our lives. We need to be willing to lay it all down before God and essentially start all over. Paul said he died daily. Every day he started with a new heart, and a new mind, ready for Christ to fill him.
2. **Restore Joy:** Psalm 51:12 *“Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.”* Are you joyful tonight? Are you letting the world rob you of your joy? Are you letting your situations rob you from your

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joy? If you are not joyful but claim to have the Lord as your Savior, the only person to blame is yourself. We can't control our circumstances but we can control how we react to them. How can we say that we love the Lord, yet we let our circumstances rob us of our joy? One of the reasons why we don't have this revival spirit in our lives is because we forget where we were. We forget how unworthy we are to have God's love and mercy. Have we forgotten the joy that God has given us? Once we remember that, we're headed in the right direction toward revival.

3. Humility: David stepped before an awesome God and immediately said "Have mercy upon me, O God". He opened himself up before the King of Kings. Most things that we get prideful about, we don't have a choice in the matter to begin with. We have nothing to boast of. There's nothing good in us without Christ.

David was focused on God at the time that he wrote this Psalm. Where is your focus tonight? Habakkuk 3:2 *"O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy."* David and Habakkuk were focused on God. The verse from II Chronicles mentions that His people shall pray and seek his face – that means that our focus should be constantly on Him. When things go on in our lives, are we maintaining focus on God? How many times has revival crossed your path and you weren't paying attention?