

Psalm 51:1
HAVE MERCY UPON ME

- I. The admission.
 - A. A part of David's humble confession is the absence of any identification of himself (e.g. as God's servant, etc.).
 - B. Note that He uses the simplest name for "God," again not assuming any relationship.
 - C. David identifies his sins as "transgressions."
 - 1. "Transgressions" are acts of rebellion, i.e., conscious refusal to submit oneself to a rightful authority.
 - 2. Though he is a king, David sees himself under The Sovereign and is answerable to Him.
- II. David's plea.
 - A. He begins by immediately begging for divine mercy – even before he speaks of his sin.
 - 1. The Hebrew word emphasizes grace, to show favor or pity, but is frequently translated "mercy" (Ps. 4:1; 6:2; 9:13, etc.).
 - 2. Grace/mercy is always given to those without cause, without any deservedness.
 - B. "Blot out," i.e., wipe out or away, exterminate, strike out.
 - 1. Legally, this admits his sin to make him guilty, worthy of the charges brought against him.
 - 2. Experientially, David asks that God wipe clean a dish, so no trace remains afterwards.
- III. David's plea for mercy and forgiveness is based on God, because there is nothing in David except every reason to reject him.
 - A. First, it is based on God's "lovingkindness."
 - B. Second, it is based on "the multitude of Thy tender mercies" is "Thy many merciful compassions, tender love."
 - C. It is encouraging to know that there is still the reality of grace, mercy, and compassion.
 - D. Come to the Table of the Lord with trust and confidence in God, in Who and what He is, and what belongs to Him!