

Bible Chat week starting 11 9 22

Changing Room

Note - the new Traveller group will meet at Sylvia's on Tuesday at 2pm this week.

1. Sometimes we have received apologies that are less than convincing or heart-felt. Share some anonymised examples. Why do we find it so hard to say sorry to each other and mean it?
2. **Read Psalm 51: 1 - 10**
3. What three characteristics of God does the Psalmist appeal to in verse 1?
4. In what three ways is forgiveness asked for in verses 1 and 2? Which speak to you the most?
5. In what three ways is sin described in these two verses? How would you define sin?
6. In verse 3, the psalmist describes his own sense of being a sinner. To what extent do you feel that 'my sin is always before me'?
7. Verse 4 makes a statement that is surprising to modern people. How do you respond to it? Does it excuse sin or deepen its significance?
8. Verse 5 is also surprising. Would you quibble with it? At what age do you consider it reasonable to talk of sin? But what is the penitent writer trying to convey by these words?
9. Verse 6 seems even more unreasonable! David suggested it reflected a traditional belief about God presenting the Law to an unborn child. But what do you think the penitent Psalmist was getting at here?
10. Verse 7 refers to hyssop, which was used in ritual cleansings as a brush. What rituals of cleansing or forgiveness do you find helpful?
11. Verses 8 and 9 look forward to better times. When we are going through a time of soul-searching and confession, what positive images encourage us to keep on going?
12. Examine the requests of verse 10 - and perhaps also verse 11. Tease out exactly what the Psalmist is looking for.
13. Does the Psalmist make any attempt to excuse himself anywhere in the Psalm?
14. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners according to 1 Timothy. The heavens rejoice at every sinner who repents, Jesus' parables teach in Luke
15. Is this essentially the same teaching as Psalm 51, or is there much more?
15. How is God speaking to you through our theme this week? Maybe share in pairs and pray for each other.