### Psalms

## Chapter 51

To the [music] director:  
  
A Psalm by David, [about the time] when the Prophet Nathan came to him over his taking BathSheba (the wife of UriAh).  
  
  
  
  
1Show mercy on me, O my God!  
 In Your abundant compassions,  
 Please erase the ways that I’ve broken Your Laws…  
 2Wash away all my lawless deeds,  
 And cleanse me from all my sins.  
 3For I know all the laws that I’ve broken,  
 And my errors are ever before me.  
  
4Against You alone, have I sinned,  
 And before You, I’ve done wicked things.  
 So, Your decisions are righteous,  
 And in Your judgments, You’ve proven just.  
  
5{Look!} But in lawlessness, I was conceived…  
 Yes, in the strange food of sin  
 That I’ve craved [since I came from] my mother.  
  
6However, You love what’s true,  
 And now You’ve revealed the bad things I did  
 From the hidden, private things of Your wisdom.  
  
7So, may I be sprinkled with branches of hyssop,  
 That I may be clean once again…  
 Wash me with the snow from above,  
 So I can stand whitened before You.  
  
8Please let me know cheering and gladness again…  
 Let my humbled bones be joyful once more!  
 9Turn Your face away from my sins  
 And erase all of my lawless deeds!  
  
10O God, please give me a heart that’s clean,  
 And with a righteous spirit, renew me within.  
 11Don’t reel and turn Your face in disgust,  
 Nor take away Your Holy Breath.  
  
12Return the joy of salvation to me…  
 Support me and [help me] rule [well].  
 13Then I’ll teach Your ways to the lawless,  
 And I’ll turn the irreverent towards You.  
  
14O my Savior and God,  
  
If You’ll save me from the guilt of this blood,  
 31My tongue will shout in praise of Your justice.  
  
15O Jehovah,  
  
To You, I’ll open my lips,  
 And with my mouth, I’ll praise You!  
  
16If You wanted sacrifices, I’d give them,  
 But You don’t think well of burnt offerings.  
 17What You want is a spirit that’s broken,  
 And You don’t overlook humbled hearts.  
  
18O Jehovah,  
  
In Your good will,  
 Do the best thing for Zion…  
 Let JeruSalem’s walls be rebuilt.  
 19Think well of our righteous sacrifices,  
 And we’ll bring burnt offerings to Your Altar.  
 [missing from our Septuagint source, probably added later]