

## Lesson 9 — A PRAYER FOR MERCY — Psalm 51

1. Read 2 Samuel 11-13. (a) What were the sins that David committed? (b) What were the results of his sins? (c) What does this teach you about sin in your own life?
2. Psalm 51 was written after the events of 2 Samuel 11-13. (a) According to Psalm 51, who does David say he sinned against? (b) Why doesn't he mention sinning against Bathsheba or Uriah? (c) What parts of this Psalm are not applicable to New Testament believers and why?
3. (a) Where did the hyssop grow according to 1 Kings 4:33? (b) What did Moses say to do with hyssop in Exodus 12:21-22? (c) What were the uses for it according to Leviticus 14:1-6 and Numbers 19:6,18? (d) How does this help you to understand David's plea in Psalm 51:7?
4. David says in Psalm 51:16-17 that God is not merely interested in outward sacrifices, but He is interested in a broken and contrite heart. (a) What do the following verses say about those who have a broken and contrite heart? Psalm 34:18, 102:17, 147:3, Isaiah 57:15, 61:1, 66:1,2. (b) How do these verses motivate you to be mindful of your heart condition?
5. How does David's cry for mercy and forgiveness compare to our modern prayers of forgiveness?
6. Write your own Psalm of penitence. (This does not have to be lengthy.)
7. Is there any unconfessed sin in your life? Confess it (and forsake it) now before God and others, if necessary. Then come with a praise to share concerning God's mercy and forgiveness in your life.