

Twisted Love

Psalm 51:1-19, Romans 3:9-18

February 18, 2018

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. (Psalm 51:1-2)

1. Sin (*Chata* חָטָא) means _____ in the Hebrew Old Testament.

Isaiah 59:2 ***But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.***

Leviticus 5:17 ***“If anyone sins and does what is forbidden in any of the Lord’s commands, even though they do not know it, they are guilty and will be held responsible.”***

2. Sin (*Hamartano* ἁμαρτάνω) means to _____ in the Greek New Testament.

Romans 3:23 ***For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God***

3. Transgression (*Pesha* נִשְׂבָּר) means _____ or _____.

Daniel 9:11 ***All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you. “Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you.***

Psalm 51:3 ***For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.***

4. Unrighteousness (*Adikos* ἄδικος) describes wrong _____.

I Peter 3:18 ***For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.***

I Corinthians 6:9-10 ***Or do you not know that wrongdoers (ἄδικος) will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.***

5. Iniquity/Wickedness (Avon רַע) means _____.
Micah 2:1 **Woe to those who plan iniquity, to those who plot evil on their beds! At morning's light they carry it out because it is in their power to do it.**

Psalms 51:9 **Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.**

Hosea 9:9 **They have sunk deep into corruption, as in the days of Gibeah. God will remember their wickedness and punish them for their sins.** (See Judges 19:11-30)

6. Sin is a _____ as well as a deed.
Genesis 4:7 **"If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."**

Psalms 51:5 **Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me**

Romans 3:9-10 (-18) **What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. 10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; ..."**

Isaiah 64:6 **All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.**

7. The Good News is that God loves _____.
Romans 5:8 **But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

I Timothy 1:15 **Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.**
I Peter 2:24 **"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."**

Exodus 34:6-7 **And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, 7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, (רַע) rebellion (עֲשָׂו) and sin(חַטָּאת). Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."**

Luke 7:47 **Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."**

I John 4:19 **We love because He first loved us.**

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Good news/bad news. Good news is really good, but we can't understand how good it is until we understand the bad news. And the bad news is really bad.

There's trouble in paradise. The good news is that God loves us with unconditional, unbreakable ... love. But what about our love for Him?

1. Sin (*Chata* חָטָא) means falling short in the Hebrew Old Testament.

Isaiah 59:2 ***But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.***

Leviticus 5:17 ***“If anyone sins and does what is forbidden in any of the Lord’s commands, even though they do not know it, they are guilty and will be held responsible.”***

2. Sin (*Hamartano* ἁμαρτάνω) means to miss the mark in the Greek New Testament.

Romans 3:23 ***For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God***

- Remember that we were made for love. We were created in God's image, and God is love.
- We sin whenever we miss the mark, whenever we fall short of living fully in God's love.

3. Transgression, (*Pesha* עֲשָׂה) means trespass or rebellion.

Daniel 9:11 ***All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you. “Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you.***

Psalm 51:3 ***For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.***

- Stepping out of bounds. False step.
- When Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, that was transgression. They stepped out of bounds.
- Jesus revealed to us that God’s law is about love. Any unloving act or attitude is a transgression.

4. Unrighteousness (*Adikos* ἄδικος) describes wrong relationships.

I Peter 3:18 ***For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.***

I Corinthians 6:9-10 ***Or do you not know that wrongdoers (ἄδικος) will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men ¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.***

5. Iniquity/Wickedness (*Avon* אָוֶן) means twistedness, distortion, perversion.

Micah 2:1 ***Woe to those who plan iniquity, to those who plot evil on their beds! At morning’s light they carry it out because it is in their power to do it.***

Psalm 51:9 ***Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.***

Hosea 9:9 ***They have sunk deep into corruption, as in the days of Gibeah. God will remember their wickedness and punish them for their sins.*** (See Judges 19:11-30)

■ Tell the story of Gibeah.

■ Incurvatus en se

■ ‘Scripture’, Luther tells us, ‘describes man as so curved in upon himself that he uses not only physical but even spiritual goods for his own purposes and in all things seeks only himself’ (*Luther’s Works*, vol. 25, p. 345, see also pp. 291-92).

■ I don’t know why I love me like I do ...

■ The image of God has become distorted in us. Twisted. Perverted.

6. Sin is a condition as well as a deed.

Genesis 4:7 ***“If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”***

Psalm 51:5 ***Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me***

Romans 3:9 -10 (-18) ***What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. 10 As it is written:***

“There is no one righteous, not even one;

11 there is no one who understands;

there is no one who seeks God.

12 All have turned away,

they have together become worthless;

there is no one who does good,

not even one.”

**13 “Their throats are open graves;
their tongues practice deceit.”**

“The poison of vipers is on their lips.”

14 “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”

15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood;

16 ruin and misery mark their ways,

17 and the way of peace they do not know.”

18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

■ In my thoughts and in my words ...

■ Anonymous letter.

■ “Saved a wretch like me.”

■ The hideous depths of human depravity.

Isaiah 64:6 ***All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.***

■ ESV Polluted garment. Think of how one soils one clothes.

■ The Hebrew word for “filthy,” טָמֵא, suggests feminine hygiene.

7. The Good News is that God loves sinners.

Romans 5:8 ***But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***

I Timothy 1:15 ***Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.***

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faithfulness, 7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness,(עָוֹן) rebellion (פְּשָׁע) and sin (חַטָּאָה). Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

■ We are in the same position as the sinful woman who washed Jesus feet with her tears.

Luke 7:47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”

I John 4:19 We love because He first loved us.