

Covenant Life

- Our next in-person Gathering is **today** at **3pm** continuing the pattern of meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.
- If you have not already do so, PLEASE click [HERE](#) to RSVP for our Golden Jubilee Celebration on March 25-26 at MSM.
- If you were unable to attend our last prayer meeting, you can listen to the audio [here](#), and read the Word Gift summary [here](#) and the transcript [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.
- **NOVENA**: We are preparing for our 50th anniversary with a **nine-week novena** to pray, meditate, and discern what God is asking of us going forward. Try to spend quality time daily praying and reflecting, attentive to prophetic words. We want the Lord to reveal His plan for us in this time, individually and as a Community. This week's topic is Discipleship. If you miss a day recall that each day is a new invitation from the Lord to turn to Him. If you know someone who is without email, please print a copy and visit them so we can be united in seeking our Lord. Please continue prayers for Gretchen and the Jubilee team.

The reading today, tied to the start of Lent, take us through the reality of sin and what God asks of us. Since our meditation this past week has been on *repentance and reconciliation*, we have had a head start in praying through these topics. We are aware of the concept of original sin detailed in the [First Reading](#), and Paul explains the facts of sin in the [Second Reading](#), but it is David's plea in psalm 51, our [Responsorial Psalm](#), that captures the essence of our prayer today: *"Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned."*

This is a psalm that I think I could say over and over...especially the verses chosen for the responsorial. Pleas for mercy, pleas to wipe out our offense, to be washed from guilt and cleansed...these are all keys to unlock the Holy Spirit in our lives. While not confirmed I heard that a young man's public confession was the trigger of the outpouring in Asbury. There is something so powerful and freeing being able to admit where we have fallen short.

God so wants to heal us to wash us clean if we would just ask. David's words are So powerful: *"A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, and your Holy Spirit take not from me. Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me."* Maybe it is easy to put ourselves in David's place and pray these words...if it is not, Lord give us the disposition to put ourselves in this place and pray earnestly these words. Such joy flows from a clean heart! God is so able to work with us for His purpose when we are not carrying around the baggage that is not His!

This is what He wants for us: Freedom. Freedom to proclaim His praise, Freedom to sit at His feet and develop a deep personal relationship, Freedom to renounce ourselves and live totally for Him, Freedom to make His Word home within us, Freedom to follow Him and say yes to His commission to make fishers of men. He needs us as His disciples working to make disciples. This has been the blessing of Covenant Community, the call and the support to accept His clean heart and say Yes.

Let us take this opportunity to cleanse whatever we need to cleanse so that we will have nothing in our way of being His disciple and responding to His great commission to make disciples of our families, our coworkers, and anyone else He will lead into our path this week.

"Heavenly Father, be present to me this Lenten season, reveal to me any and all areas of my life that are not totally surrendered to You. Wash me clean, given me a new heart that seeks a deeper intimacy with You. Today and every day I choose You...to follow You and to share You with whomever You lead into my life. I accept Your call to discipleship AND Your call to make disciples. Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon me to empower my Yes to You!"

God Bless,
David