

SERMON

DATE: Saturday/Sunday, November 3-4, 2018

SERIES TITLE: LESSONS FROM PSALMS: *Words of Joy, Hope, Forgiveness and Gratitude*

SERMON TITLE: Lessons From Rough Times

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 51:1-14

- [1] 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.
- [3] For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.
- [4] Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.
- [5] Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
- [6] Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.
- [7] Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- [8] Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
- [9] Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.
- [10] Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- [11] Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
- [12] Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
- [13] Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.
- [14] Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

November 3-4, 2018

Title: Lessons From Tough Times

1. How easy to wander away from God.

- We need practices and habits to keep us on track.

2. How sad the end result of our actions.

- All sin is ultimately against God.
- We are the problem.

3. How amazing the love, forgiveness, and restoration of God.

- God's impulse is to restore.
- God desires us.
- God provided the way to solve our sinful and hurtful actions against Him.

Lagniappe

Barack Obama, and probably many more before him, famously said, "Elections have consequences."

Elections have always had consequences. The election this Tuesday, November 6, will either reaffirm the direction of the country or turn it in a new direction. What we decide and how we vote will affect the future of America.

At this point in history, the rule of law and freedom of religion are under major pressure in America. How we vote will affect what happens in those areas and so many others.

I want to encourage you to vote. In fact, I would say that Christians have a duty to vote and should not be absent from voting.

Jesus told us that we are the "Light of the world" and "the salt of the earth." He told us to let our light shine before others. While voting may not seem as significant as witnessing and living out our faith in other areas, I believe that voting in a democracy helps determine the light in our country. Would there be as much light if churches are stifled and the gospel banned? Could we actually face a time when witnessing to others would be against the law?

In Louisiana, there is a "throw away" proposition at the bottom of the ballot which is not throw away at all. It would allow betting on Fantasy sports and it would not prohibit minors participating.

I strongly urge you to vote "NO." This is a parish by parish vote in Louisiana. Unfortunately the proposition does not indicate this is a gambling issue.

Louisiana has seen that gambling can survive only as it expands. This will expand gambling and will be another way to take this scourge to our children.