

## **Ruin To Renovation - Sermon #8 - Ruined Soul**

### **Study Questions for Groups & Individuals**

#### **ICE BREAKER:**

If you had to be a dog or a cat, which would you be & why?

#### **OPENING PRAYER:**

Let's pray for our partners in the Middle East!

- Please pray for the **Syrian Women's Conference** coming up in early June. Pray for exactly the right women to make up the American team of 20 who will go to serve. A number of churches are planning to send women on the team. Pray for exactly the right Syrian women to be selected to come and be discipled, trained, and refreshed. Pray for the \$50,000 needed for this project. Committed to date: \$10,000.
- Pray for **Faith Baptist Church, Mt Lebanon in Beirut** - Their pastor passed away five years ago. They are asking God to provide the right pastor to become their spiritual leader. Also please PRAY that many Muslim refugees will find not only physical help at the new center, but they will also understand and receive the gospel message in this place of refuge. PRAY that members of the church will gladly volunteer to staff the new center. PRAY that programs like food distribution will soften hearts to the gospel. PRAY that the center will be a beacon of light to the entire community.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Is 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.*"

How does this above verse show us that no one is righteous (rightly related to God) outside of Christ? How it does not matter how good or bad someone is outwardly, that our hearts are all far from God without Jesus' saving work? Are there other verses you would go to which discuss this truth? What does this do to our outlook on each other?

In light of that, discuss this statement: *Jesus did not come to make bad people good, but to make dead people alive.*

What makes us significant in God's eyes? In light of that, discuss this statement: *We're all at the same time deserving of death, but worthy of God's Grace.* What does that statement mean to you?

How do you feel about CS Lewis' words that we are either '*immortal horrors or everlasting splendors*'? Meaning, without Jesus we're the former (Ps 14:2-3 & Rom 3:23). With him we're the latter (2 Cor. 5:17)

How does owning, embracing & being honest with ourselves about our inherent sinful nature enable Christ to work more deeply in us?

What do you feel about the statement, *God is not mean, but he is dangerous*? In thinking through that, maybe look at Philippians 2:5-13, particularly vv12 & 13.

What does Dallas Willard mean by the statement, *'Choice is where sin dwells'*?

How does sin undermine Christians from living as God's own people, out of God's own heart?

Read aloud PSALM 51 together as a group prayerfully. Discuss the Psalmists heart, understanding of self, and his need for God

*"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 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. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*

*Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*

*Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise. May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem. Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar."*