**Worship** (His Love Endures Forever) (Lesson 3)

*(Mercy Not Sacrifice) Psalm 50*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

READ: Psalm 50

1. God is cast in the role of a judge in the passage (vv.4,6), who summons (to send for with authority, order to appear in court) the earth and the heavens to corroborate his testimony against his people (v.7). What does it seem is at the heart of God’s concern for his people?

What have they done or not done in violation of their side of the covenant?

1. What is God not rebuking them for? Does this surprise you in any way?
2. How is God distinguished (or how does he distinguish himself) from humans in this psalm?
3. From what God says to the people, what does it seem has become their attitude in offering sacrifices to God?
4. What commands does God give to remedy the situation?
5. Which one of these commands do you find easiest to do?

Which is the most difficult and why?

1. In verses 16-22 God addresses those who flagrantly disobey his covenant. What has allowed them to act this way and think there will be no consequences?
2. How might intentional gratitude prepare a person to see God’s salvation or make God’s goodness more apparent (v.23)?
3. How would you characterize God after studying this psalm?

From what God has said here, what does he want for his people (including you)

1. What religious or worship-related activities do you find easier to fulfill than certain vows or commitments you’ve made to God?

What might you do to become more genuinely grateful, obedient or dependent on God, in other words, to have a real relationship with God?

*Take time now to “sacrifice thank offerings” by telling God everything you can think of for which you are grateful*.

***Now or Later***

The underlying theme of Psalm 50 (perhaps the entire Bible) is that God desires mercy, not sacrifice (see also Psalm 69:30-31; Hosea 6:6; Matthew 9:13; 12:7; and Mark 12:33). Journal this week about how you have experienced God’s mercy because you called on him and you have experienced God’s mercy because you called on him and saw him deliver you. In Psalm 50, the Israelites haven’t called out for help, yet God has mercy and gives them this word to rescue them from ritual, which won’t give them life. Instead, God brings them to a real relationship with him, which will give them life. When has God delivered you without your asking for help?

***NEXT LESSON***:

**Worship: His Love Endures Forever**

***Broken for You –* READ: Mark 14:1-11**