

CARU DUW CARU POBL LOVE GOD LOVE PEOPLE

Pitching Our Tent

ELIM CHURCH
ABERYSTWYTH



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Clearing the Ground 1

Create in Me a Clean Heart

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Where We Are

- We have focused singly on the person of Christ and our identity in Him for four years (Isaiah 53)
- We want to become a church inviting the hungry and the thirsty to come and experience the Kingdom of God (Isaiah 55)
- Today I believe we are in an Isaiah 54 season



Isaiah 54 Season

- **Sing O Barren woman...**
 - We have been choosing to praise God in the midst of challenge and in faith for the inheritance He will give us
- **Stretch out your tent, you will increase**
 - Bigger, Better, Bolder
 - We are pitching our tent



Making Our Tent Strong

- **Guy ropes** **Your Prayer**
- **Fly sheet (Cover)** **Your Choice to Praise**
- **Pegs** **Your Patience**
- **Poles (Frame)** **You to Partake (serve)**
- **Pole sleeves** **Our Partnership**
- **Inner tent** **His and your Presence**
- **Ground sheet** **Provision**
- **Zips** **Your Peers (Invite)**
- **Bag** **Your Passion**



The Next Stage in Pitching Our Tent...

- Is Clearing the ground to ensure we build on the right foundations and are ready to receive what God wants for us
- It is vital we prepare our hearts, our lives, our services, our schedule and even this building to allow God to do what He will amongst us



Clearing the Ground

- **Part 1**
 - Create in me (us) a clean heart Oh God.
- **Context – David; one of our greatest heroes of the faith – following his most epic failure – in true repentance (and it doesn't get much worse than deceit and cowardice, adultery and implicit murder)**



Psalm 51

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.



Psalm 51

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

11 Cast me not away from your presence, take not your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

14 Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;

19 then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.



It Starts With Him

- According to YOUR steadfast love
- According to YOUR abundant mercy
- He's not trying to butter God up to twist his arm and manipulate Him into forgiving him!
- He understands the heart of God (Acts 13:22).
- He shows an understanding of forgiveness and grace that was unusual before Christ



Recognition

- **He recognises his condition**
 - I know my transgressions
 - I was brought forth in iniquity
- **He recognises God's ability to cleanse him**
 - Purify me with Hyssop and I SHALL be clean
 - Hysop - ceremonial cleansing taking people from 'unclean to clean'
 - **Heb 12:24** and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.



The Key to His Wellspring

- **10** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
- **The most vital thing David could ask of God was for a restored heart and spirit**
 - Hebrew: Leb - inner man, mind, will, heart
- **Above all else, guard your heart for everything you do flows from it (Prov 4:23)**
- **If we want to be flowing in God and Him in us...**



- **David's request**
 - 'Restore to me the joy of Your Salvation'
- **God's requirement**
 - 'a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise'
 - Our humility is irresistible: God opposes the proud but lifts up the humble
 - Whatever you've done, if you come to Him in humility and brokenness, He WILL NOT turn you away



God's Heartfelt Promise to us

- **Not just a clean heart, a new one!**
 - I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. **(Ezekiel 26:36)**



And Then...

- We will be able to receive His goodness in place of the and rebuild
 - **18** Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;



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Today is a Day to Clear some Ground

- O Come to the altar!

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