Emptied,
That I May Be Filled
Coming to Terms with Sin

• What is sin?
  – Rebellion against God
  – Choice to ignore or go beyond what God has said

Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the LORD

Genesis 13:13
Coming to Terms with Sin

• My attitude toward sin:
  – “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
  – “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted
Coming to Terms with Sin

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 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. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. – Ps. 51:1-5
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Coming to Terms with Sin

• **Transgression**: “To overpass a rule”
• **Iniquity**: “Stray from the right path”
• **Sin**: “To go astray”
• **Evil**: “Tending toward injury, mischief”

“Against You, You only, have I sinned”
Coming to Terms with Sin

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

-- Psalm 32:3-4
Coming to Terms with Sin

• Poverty of spirit means defeat of pride
  – Come before God realizing broken state
  – Come before God knowing I cannot repair damage
Coming to Terms with Sin

- Poverty of spirit allows honest vision
  - See what has been done to the Creator
  - Lamentation produced due to guilt
Coming to Terms with Sin

• Admittance to guilt brings comfort of God
  – He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and
dead shall be no more, neither shall there be
mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the
former things have passed away. – Rev. 21:4
Coming to Terms with Sin

• Sin is seen for what it is
  – Crushes the spirit; destroys relationship with God
  – And you were dead in the trespasses and sins
    -- Ephesians 2:1
Coming to Terms with God

• It is not enough simply to renounce sin
  – Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
  – “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”
Coming to Terms with God

• Freewill allows one to fight against God
  – So I spoke to you, and you would not listen; but you rebelled against the command of the LORD and presumptuously went up into the hill country.
  -- Deuteronomy 1:43
Coming to Terms with God

• Freewill allows one to fight against God
  – Meekness is harnessing this power
Proclaim these words toward the north, and say, “‘Return, faithless Israel, declares the LORD. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, declares the LORD; I will not be angry forever. Only acknowledge your guilt, that you rebelled against the LORD your God and scattered your favors among foreigners under every green tree, and that you have not obeyed my voice, declares the LORD. Return, O faithless children, declares the LORD; for I am your master; I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion.

-- Jeremiah 3:12-14
Coming to Terms with God

• Meekness allows return to position with God
  – Will stand with God both now and eternity
  – Only achieve this through poverty of spirit
Coming to Terms with God

• Emptied of sin and pride, I can now be filled
  – Not enough simply to be emptied (Matt. 12:43-45)
  – There is no neutral ground with God
  – Hunger for true righteousness, not self-righteousness
Coming to Terms with God

• Where does the filling take place?
Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.

--John 6:54-56
Coming to Terms with God

• When I come to terms with God...
  – I am ready to be like Him
For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

– Psalm 51:16-17

Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

-- Psalm 32: 10