

Chronological: A Journey Thru Scripture

A Lesson on Forgiveness Psalm 32:1-11

As we continue our series...

Chronological: A Journey Thru Scripture

I want to encourage you to **keep digging into the Word**. I believe God has been using this series in a big way in the life of our church. Don't give up, keep reading...let the **Father speak through His Word and be ready to do whatever the Spirit reveals** to you. **Remember the goal is application not saturation.**

One of the **unique characteristics of the reading plan** we are using is the placement of the **Psalms** in our reading plan. While the Psalms appear later in our bibles many of them were **written by David which makes it only natural that we would read them during his life span.**

I have selected a particular Psalm for us to study today because it flows naturally out of our sermon on **Saul** last week. I said that Saul didn't finish well because he **refused to deal with the sin in his life**. I don't want that to be said of us!

Today I want to unpack a psalm David wrote about forgiveness and he knew a lot about the subject because he received God's forgiveness when he committed adultery and murder.

Let's look at...

Psalm 32 (NKJV) — A Psalm of David. A Contemplation. 1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah 5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah 6 For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You In a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters They shall not come near him. 7 You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of

deliverance. Selah 8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. 9 Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you. 10 Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; But he who trusts in the Lord, mercy shall surround him. 11 Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous; And shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

1. The Joy of Forgiveness, 1-2

Psalm 32:1–2 (NKJV) — 1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit.

The Psalmist used **three separate words** to describe sin.

- **Transgression** = disobedience, rebellion, crossing the line
- **Sin** = failure, missing the mark of God's standard
- **Iniquity** = inward perversion or crookedness

But no matter what word is used...**John says...**

1 John 3:4 (NKJV) — 4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

All sin is defiance.

However, did you notice the **repeated word "blessed"**?

The word in Hebrew is **"ahsh-ray"** which means to be **happy or highly favored**. David expresses how it feels when you know the Lord has forgiven you of your sin.

Why such joy? Let me share a couple of reasons...

- **Forgiveness restores fellowship with God**

1 John 1:7 (NKJV) — 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

- **Forgiveness restores confidence in praying**

1 John 5:14–15 (NKJV) — 14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

How then is our sin forgiven? John makes it really simple in...

1 John 1:9 (NKJV) — 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

In Greek this is called a **first-class conditional sentence**, if the first half is true then the second half is equally true.

If we confess, He forgives and cleanses! And his forgiveness and cleansing are rooted in His faithfulness (promises, loyal love) and justice (righteousness).

That's the JOY OF FORGIVENESS

Now let's see the opposite of that, I want you to see...

2. The Sorrow of Unconfessed Sin

Psalms 32:3–4 (NKJV) — 3 When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah

When the Psalmist **kept silent and harbored sin in his heart it affected** him in so many ways. Notice the vivid pictures he uses.

- **Bones grew old** = He felt like he was wasting away. The word he used means to decay or wear out like an old garment.
- **Groaning all day long** = He felt the weight and pain of his in and it caused him to cry out, weep in agony and sorrow
- **Your hand was heavy upon me** – He felt the conviction of the Spirit and the weight of God's punishment.

- **My vitality was turned into the drought of summer** = He was spiritually dry, sapped of his strength.

Doesn't sound so good! Yet too many times **we tolerate sin** our lives. Have you ever felt what he was feeling?

I wonder brothers and sisters how we can **continue to live in unconfessed sin and not feel the weight of our rebellion**. How can a believer **live happily** in a state of sinful rebellion?

The reality is that the church, in her attempts to **gain popularity and numbers**, has gone **soft on sin**. We have learned to **justify ourselves** by **spiritualizing away** the guilt of sin. We have accepted things the bible calls sin and redefined them as **culturally irrelevant**.

Yet that doesn't line up with the bible and while we may feel good about ourselves now, **we still have to stand before the Lord** one day and give an accounting, even if you are a believer!

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NKJV) — 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

There won't be a loss of salvation but there will be sorrow over our sin and a loss of rewards.

We have seen...

- The Joy of Forgiveness
- The Sorrow of Unconfessed Sin

Now let's see...

3. The Specifics of Confession, 5

Psalm 32:5 (NKJV) — 5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

Here is the **path to forgiveness...confession!** David confessed his sins to the Lord. I want you to see it.

- **He was specific**

The psalmist didn't pray a **generic prayer** of forgiveness like a lot of people. He called **sin out by name** before the Lord. **We know what our sin is, and God knows what our sin is, so why not just call it by name.**

There is no need to be generic, that only **makes us feel better** because we feel ashamed but remember, confession leads to forgiveness and cleansing.

We tell our twins all the time, the best policy is honestly even when you have done wrong. Why? Because **honestly always is always best.** When you cover up things it gets worse.

- **He was forthright**

He called his sin "**iniquity**" **being forthright about the origin of his sin...**it was **inward rebellion** that caused outward results. Why do we try to blame others for our own actions? Sin is birthed in our hearts long before it is acted out in our members.

- **He was direct**

He took his sin to the **One who alone could forgive him...**the Father! This doesn't mean that we can by-pass those we have sinned against. But he knew he need to start here!

- **He was forgiven**

I said it last week and I'll say it again...here is **the beauty of repentance...FORGIVENESS!** If you want your sins cleansed, then you have to confess them before the Lord!

We have seen...

- The Joy of Forgiveness
- The Sorrow of Unconfessed Sin
- The Specifics of Confession

Finally let's see...

4. The Confidence of Confession, 6-11

Psalm 32:6–11 (NKJV) — 6 For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You In a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters They shall not come near him. 7 You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah 8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. 9 Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you. 10 Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; But he who trusts in the Lord, mercy shall surround him. 11 Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous; And shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

- **His Response, 6-7**

Prayer is the road to confession and forgiveness. We must pray and seek the Lord and the good news is that if we seek Him, we shall find Him. When we walk in forgiveness we are sheltered and protected in Him.

- **His Warning, 8-9**

Many scholars believe that this is God speaking not the psalmist. The Father is offering guidance and direction for our lives and is warning us not to be as stubborn as a mule!

Warren Wiersbe says stubbornness...

- *Hardens our hearts*
- *Affects our eyes, all we can see is our sin ever before us*
- *Affects our consciences, we can become very defensive*
- *Affects our ears, we lose the sound of joy and gladness*
- *Affects our lips, we no longer testify or sing praises*

- *Affects our mind, we lack wisdom*

Don't harden your heart, confess your sin and be restored today!

- **His Joy, 10-11**

WORSHIP!!!!

CONCLUSION:

1. Call to repentance to experience joy.
2. Call to salvation.