

Sunday Morning Message

June 24, 2018

Psalms 32 – *Come Clean with God; Come Clean with People*

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 32

Introduction

This is the first psalm that has been designated as a “Maschil”. There are a dozen more psalms that will have this designation. It is defined as a poem or song of contemplation. It comes from a root word that means to ponder or consider. Some have said that these Psalms are particularly intended to give instruction, which makes sense when you consider verse eight:

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye." (Psalms 32:8)

This is second of six penitential psalms. The first was Psalm 6, and the most famous is Psalm 51. The penitential psalms are psalms of confession. In them David confesses and expresses his remorse over his sin with Bathsheba, and the murder of Uriah the Hittite. (See 2 Samuel 11 – 12)

Vs. 1 – 2 from this psalm were quoted by the Apostle Paul in Romans 4:7 & 8, and are used in that context to teach that salvation is by grace through faith alone apart from any human works.

The Psalmist and the Apostle Paul are both stating the same principle: People who come clean with God and the people they have offended, are happy people. On the other hand, people who try to cover up their sin and live a lie, will be miserable.

In this psalm, we will have King David teach us from his own personal experience with God, four principles regarding forgiveness.

I The Blessing of Repentance (vs. 1 – 2)

"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile." (Psalms 32:1-2)

This psalm is the second psalm containing a beatitude. The first is Psalm 1:

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." (Psalms 1:1)

The word, “blessed”, in these beatitudes means, “Oh, how happy!” Everybody desires to be happy. These beatitudes tell us how we can be happy.

There are six more “blessed is the man” phrases in the Psalms, for a total of eight. Perhaps, the most famous beatitudes are found in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:1 – 12:

"And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be

comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." (Matthew 5:1-12)

Notice – David says, “blessed is the man whose transgression [or sin] is covered.

Notice the word, “cover” – David, like Adam tried to cover his sins to no avail, but when God covers sins, they are gone forever.

If we confess, God will cover and cleanse.

If we try to cover or hide our sins from God and others:

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." (Proverbs 28:13)

"For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops." (Luke 12:2-3)

But, if we confess to God and to those we have sinned against, God will cover the sin, and even cause people to eventually forget:

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." (1 John 1:7-10)

"And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." (Jeremiah 31:34 KJV)

"I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins." (Isaiah 43:25 KJV)

“impute” – business term – means to count or to calculate; to apply to one’s account

“guile” – deceit – David at one time had guile or deceit in his heart. You may recall that David did not come clean with God initially. God had to confront him. You have to be completely open and honest with God.

Illustration – Phil lying when he was a kid.

II The Foolishness of Resistance (vs. 3 – 4)

"When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah."

(Psalms 32:3-4)

Notice the agony David experienced in his soul, as well as physically, as long as he was trying to hide from God. According to Jay Adams, un-confessed sin can manifest itself in both physical and mental illness symptoms.

David experienced the chastening hand of God while he was hiding.

"Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice."

(Psalms 51:8)

"For thine arrows stick fast in me, and thy hand presseth me sore." (Psalms 38:2)

"Remove thy stroke away from me: I am consumed by the blow of thine hand." (Psalms 39:10)

Charles Spurgeon said, "God does not permit His children to sin successfully." John Donne wrote, "Sin is a serpent, and he that covers sin does but keep it warm, that it may sting the more fiercely, and disperse the venom and malignity thereof the more effectually."¹

III The Promise of Deliverance (vs. 5 – 7)

"I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah. For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him. Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah." (Psalms 32:5-

7)

notice – "when thou mayest be found" – Don't wait until its too late. See [Proverbs 1:24 – 33](#).

David waited until God confronted him, and he suffered the whole time that he delayed; but once he confessed, he was forgiven.

This doesn't mean that David didn't suffer because of the consequences of his sins. God in His grace forgives us, but God in His government says, "You shall reap what you have sown." Bathsheba conceived and gave birth to a son, but the baby died. David's son Amnon raped his half-sister Tamar (2 Samuel 13) and was slain by David's son Absalom. Then Absalom tried to seize the throne and was slain by Joab (2 Samuel 14–18). While David was dying, his son Adonijah tried to take the scepter from Solomon (1 Kings 1), and Adonijah was slain. However, David faced these calamities with God's help and lived to

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (2004). *Be worshipful*. "Be" Commentary Series (1st ed., p. 124). Colorado Springs, CO: Cook Communications Ministries.

assemble what was needed for the temple so that Solomon (Bathsheba's second son) could build it.²

IV The Joy Received from Obedience (vs. 8 – 11)

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee. Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about. Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart." (Psalms 32:8-11)

Verses 8 – 9 record what God said to David.

Verses 10 – 11 are David's encouragement to God's people. He is speaking from experience, when he tells the people to trust God, confess their sin to Him. He is merciful, and that is something that you and I can rejoice about.

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." (Proverbs 28:13)

Conclusion

All of us have sinned against God. All of us have sinned against other people.

The best thing that we can do is be quick to admit that we have sinned – both to God and to the people we have offended.

If we do, God will cover it and cleanse it. If we don't, God will shout it from the rooftops, and eventually, the consequences will get worse.

Illustration – Hester Prynne in *The Scarlet Letter*

If you are not saved, you need to confess your sinful condition to God, and ask Jesus to forgive you and save you.

If you are saved, and God has brought to your mind something that needs to be confessed, you had better do it. You need to come clean with Him, and you need to come clean with the person (or people) that you have sinned against. They may get upset for a while, but the fact that you took the right step and obeyed God by confessing will cause God to work in the heart of the person that we have sinned against.

² Wiersbe, W. W. (2004). *Be Worshipful*. "Be" Commentary Series (1st ed., p. 126). Colorado Springs, CO: Cook Communications Ministries.