

# “The Joy of Forgiveness”

## Psalm 32

### Intro/Thesis

- One of the greatest joys that I have ever experienced as a Christian is the joy that comes when God, in His infinite mercy and grace, forgives my sins, and restores that right relationship with Him.
- Conversely, I don't know of a greater misery than the misery that comes when I am out of fellowship with the Lord, and when there is unrepented of, and unconfessed sin in my life.
- Beloved, the biggest barrier, or the biggest hindrance to living a full and productive life for Christ, is unconfessed, unrepented of sin.
- In my opinion, unconfessed sin is also the biggest barrier to revival in our churches, and revival in our own hearts.
- And unless you never make a mistake, unless you never sin, we ALL need revival.
- Today, we are going to see the tragic effects of unconfessed sin, sin that is left to fester.
- We will also see the joy that comes from heartfelt confession and repentance.
- **Read Scripture: Psalm 32:1-7**
- **Pray**
- Psalm 32 is a psalm of David that expresses his joy at having his sins forgiven. The first 7 verses are David's expression of joy. Verses 8-11 are God's response to David.
- David had sinned against the Lord; and after he sinned, he did not confess right away. But when he did confess, he was a broken man.
- And we can see that confession in Psalm 51, which is a companion psalm to Psalm 32.
- **Read Psalm 51:1-13**
- In **51** we see the confession, and in **32** we see the joy that comes from that confession.
- There are 5 truths regarding sin that I want to share with you this morning: five truths that have been around since the beginning of man.
- Number 1....

## I

### Sin Fascinates

- The sin that David took his time confessing was his sin with Bathsheba.
- You remember the story of David and Bathsheba. It was the spring of the year. It was a time when kings and army's did battle, and Israel was pitched in battle.
- However, Israel's King, David, wasn't there. He was back at the palace; and this would be his first mistake.
- I don't know if he had spring fever, or if he was under conviction for not being where he should have been, but one night he couldn't sleep.
- And I don't know if you have seen drawings of David's palace, but it was built in such a way so that you could walk up to the roof, and walk around and see the city.
- So, David was not engaged in battle with the army of Israel, but he was back at the palace, and one spring night he was walking around on the roof because he couldn't sleep, and low and behold he spotted a woman bathing.
- This was a woman that was probably bathing on top of her house, thinking that she would be out of everyone's sight, and she was, except that she was not out of the king's sight. His roof was much taller.
- So David saw this woman bathing; she was a beautiful woman; she was a married woman; and then David looked too long. And this would be his second great mistake.
- He asked the palace guard about this woman, and then he sent for her, and then he lay with her. And this was his third big mistake.
- You can read all the details of King David's sin with Bathsheba in 2 Samuel 11.
- You see, initially, sin gets us with fascination, or curiosity. It might start innocently enough – maybe it's that second look at that guy or that gal.
- Maybe it's that TV program that we know we shouldn't be watching. Maybe it's looking at that magazine cover while we are standing in line at the grocery store (alright preacher, you've gone from preaching to meddling).
- It always seems to start so innocently.
- Sin fascinates. But not only does sin fascinate...

## II

### Sin Assassinates

- King David probably thought that he had gotten away with it, and may not have given it another thought, until, until that day that he received word that Bathsheba had conceived.

- David probably couldn't believe it. But he was determined not to let this thing go any further so he came up with a plan.
- The king would send for Uriah, who was Bathsheba's husband, who was on the front lines of the battle, where the king should have been.
- David was going to send for Uriah, and give him a furlough. He was going to give him some time to be with his wife, and that way, no one would ever know about David and Bathsheba.
- There was only one problem with David's plan; Uriah had more integrity than his king did. When Uriah reported to the palace, and King David told him to take a few days furlough and go see his wife, Uriah refused.
- He said that as long as everyone else was still fighting a war, he would not allow himself to enjoy the comforts of home, so you know what he did? He slept on the palace floor.
- Well, this just wouldn't do. David steamed, but he came up with plan "B." He sent Uriah back to the front with secret instructions to his commander.
- Listen to **2 Samuel 11:15**, "*Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die.*"
- David's plan was to see that Uriah was killed in battle, and then David would marry Bathsheba, and take her as one of his wives.
- And that is exactly what happened. Uriah WAS killed in battle, and after a period of mourning, David DID marry Bathsheba.
- But beloved, I want you to know that God didn't like it.
- **Read 2 Samuel 11:26-27**  
*"When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD."*
- That word, "displeased," literally means "*was evil in the eyes of.*" "*But the thing that David had done [was evil in the eyes of] the Lord.*"
- When it happened, it probably looked like the perfect crime; but you see, all sin is against God, and it cannot be hidden.
- When David, the King of Israel, walked out on his roof that night he couldn't sleep, I doubt that he could have ever imagined what would take place within a very short period of time.

- My dear friends, sin will take you farther than you wish to go; keep you longer than you wish to stay, and cost you more than you are willing to pay.
- Sin Fascinates.
- Sin Assassinates.
- But thirdly this morning, I want you to see that...

### III Sin Sours the Spirit

- If left unconfessed, as with King David, sin will fester, and it will sour, and it will cause all kinds of problems.
- **Read Psalm 32:3-4**
- These verses illustrate the unchanging biblical principle that a person's physical health is vitally related to his or her spiritual well-being.
- Does that mean that every person that is sick today has unconfessed sin in their life? No. But there is an undeniable link.
- David said, [*Reread vv. 3*].
- You see, David's sin with Bathsheba was bad enough; but what made the whole thing even worse, it would be a whole year before David would confess his sin with Bathsheba, and then only because the prophet, Nathan, pointed his boney finger in the King's face and accused him of sin.
- You see, God had told Nathan what David had done. And when Nathan confronted the king with his sin, The King of Israel broke down, and confessed.
- But if we do not confess our sins right away, then they will fester, and they will rot, and they will sour our spirits.
- **Proverbs 17:22 says**, "*A merry heart doeth good, like a medicine, but a broken spirit drieth the bones.*"
- Unconfessed sin, much like a wound that is not treated and gets infected, will hurt the whole body. We've already seen this with King David.
- Unconfessed sin can affect your attitude toward your spouse; it can affect our attitude towards your friends, or your boss.
- **Illustration:**  
There were 2 ladies in a hair salon getting their new "hairdo's" for the week, and one of the ladies turned to the other one and said, "do you wake up grumpy in the mornings?"  
The other lady said, "No, I just let him sleep."

- Some people can hide it pretty well. Those that you may see every day may seem ok to you.
- Things just aren't always what they seem...
- Sometimes people might seem ok on the outside, but on the inside they are in great turmoil.
- A sour spirit can lead to bitterness.

- **Illustration**

My heart goes out to those who are bitter. You know, those who are bitter are much like a Porcupine; they have many fine points, but they are hard to be around.....

- Sin Fascinates.
- Sin Assassinates
- Sin Sours the Spirit

#### **IV Sin Separates**

- Did you know that sin puts a wedge between you and God?

- **Read: Isaiah 59:1-2**

*“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”*

- When we sin, and if we don't confess it right away, and get it under the blood of Jesus, then absolutely nothing good is going to happen.
- That sin will fester, and it will sour, and it will have all kinds of detrimental effects on you emotionally, physically, and spiritually.
- But that's not all:

#### **V Sin Kills**

- **Romans 6:23** says, *“But the wages of sin is death...”*
- **Ezekiel 18:4** says, *“Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; the soul who sins shall die.”*

- Those who will deliberately sin, and profess to be Christians, should carefully consider the response of God to David.
- King David sinned in relative secrecy, but God’s judgment upon him was public. The Bible says that *“it was before all of Israel,” “even before the sun.”*
- The severity of God’s judgment on David’s sin can be seen in that every generation has read about it for the past 3,000+ years. And this was a man after God’s own heart.
- Some people actually have the gall to blame God for their own sin, and their own wickedness.
- **Read James 1:13-15**  
*“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God,’ for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”*
- David found that lust grew into adultery. Adultery produced lies and deceit in an effort to cover it up; and the failure to cover it up pressured him into the desperate act of murder.
- So, what can we do?
- As soon as we realize that we have sinned, we need to stop, confess it, repent of it, and be done with it.
- Back in **Psalm 32, verse 5** says, *“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.”*
- David had learned his lesson. He had gone so long with unconfessed sin, and when he finally did confess and repent, he was filled with such joy.
- So, first, we recognize our sin for what it is; and then we confess our sin.
- Secondly, we need to realize that we were born with a sin nature; we are going to stumble. Now, this is not a license to sin, but it’s something that we need to understand.
- While there might be some who think they never do anything wrong, I also know that there are some who continually beat themselves up.
- We have a sin nature. What does that mean? We are born with a propensity to sin, according to Scripture.
- **Ecclesiastes 7:20** says, *“For there is not a just man on earth who doeth good and sinneth not.”*
- And I just love **Isaiah 55:7**, *“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord and He will have mercy on him; and to our god, for He will abundantly pardon.”*

- God was ready to forgive David as soon as he had sinned, if he would have only asked.
- Those who truly repent; those that make a free and genuine confession of sins, God is ready and waiting to forgive, to restore, to make right that relationship with Him.
- God loves us so much; the truth is God is more willing to forgive our sins than we are willing to confess them.
- But God loves you, and he loves me, and He desires to have that restored relationship with us, and it doesn't matter who you are, or what you have done.
- **2 Peter 3:9** says, *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*
- God is willing, and He is ready, and He is waiting to forgive those that will earnestly come to Him in repentance and faith.
- We've seen the tragic effects of sin; now let's look at the results of genuine confession.
- First of all, genuine confession cleanses and purifies. There is just nothing else like being clean, and pure before the Lord.
- Secondly, confession restores that lost relationship with the Father. It takes that wedge of sin out of the way. Once we were separated by our sin, but now we have fellowship once again.
- Thirdly, true confession paves the way for genuine revival, no matter what anyone else around you is doing.
- God's Word says, *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*
- **Psalm 63** (read vs. 1-8) is a good definition of revival.
- When we thirst for God, He is there. Do you thirst for God? Do you long to be in His presence?

## Let's Pray