

Fourth Sunday in Lent – 2025

Saturday, 3/29 at 4:00 & Sunday, 3/30 at 9:00

# Forgiveness Is Amazing!

## *Get Yours Today!*

Text: Psalm 32:1-5 NAS-95

Lenten Wednesdays: Service 11, Meal 12 | Meal 6, Service 7

**Introduction:** Dear friends: GUILT can be miserable:

- 😞 **we know** we did wrong
- 😞 **we feel** miserable about it
- 😞 **we think** there is no way of escape

Today, we focus on **Psalm 32**,<sup>1</sup> which is a Maskil, that is, “a **contemplation**” (Kretzmann). The LORD wants us to ➔ admit our sins, ➔ be heartily sorry for them, ➔ confess them, and ➔ receive God’s amazing gift of forgiveness!

**Psalm 32** and **Psalm 51** – two of David’s greatest psalms:

- It is likely that David wrote **Psalm 51** shortly after Nathan confronted David about his sins (2 Sam. 12:1-14).
- Then, as David reflected on ♣the misery of holding his sin in and ♣the joy of being forgiven, he wrote **Ps 32**.

1. **The Gift of Forgiveness:** **How blessed is he** [*literally, “O the blessings of him”*] **whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered!** // When we sin, we tend to make an excuse for our sin, *but it is much better to ♣heartily confess and ♣gladly receive God’s forgiveness!*

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<sup>1</sup> Psalm 32 is numbered with other penitential psalms: 6; 38; 51; 102; 130; 143.

- a. **Transgression Is Forgiven**: *It's pardoned!* "When a criminal is pardoned, it signifies legal forgiveness and the restoration of rights, effectively ending any further punishment and allowing the individual to be considered as if they never committed the offense" (Generative AI). Think about ▶ a sin you committed and ▶ the guilt your experienced... **When you have God's forgiveness through Jesus, God looks upon you as if you never committed that sin!**
  - b. **Sin Is Covered**: Sin is powerful in a negative way, **but Jesus' sacrifice is even more powerful in a positive way!**
    - i. Sin is covered through repentance!
    - ii. The LORD remembers our sins no more (Jer. 31:34).
2. **A Clean Record and No Excuses:** <sup>2</sup> **How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit!**
- a. **Does Not Impute Iniquity**: We have done wrong things that cannot be undone. However, amazingly, *the LORD regards all who know Jesus as if they NEVER did anything wrong!*
  - b. **In Whose Spirit There Is No Deceit**:
    - i. When a person is deceptive, *he tries to ▶ cover up or ▶ excuse his sin* – it's not my fault!
    - ii. But the person is blessed who ▶ fully admits his sin and ▶ knows he has God's forgiveness – **not** because he deserves it **but** because ▶ Jesus paid his penalty, ▶ he has godly sorrow, and ▶ he is trusting in Jesus for eternal life!

3. **Ignoring Our Conscience:** <sup>3</sup> **When I kept silent *about my sin*, my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long.**
- a. David's Sin (2 Samuel 11:1 – 12:15): **Adultery** > attempted coverup > **murder**. When we lie, *we are tempted to cover up the first lie with a second lie.* Sadly, *we can relate to David's situation.*
  - b. David's Silence: He knew he had done wrong, but he kept it hidden. During that time David was **miserable** and **filled with regret**. The Holy Spirit wanted to ♣fill him with sorrow and ♣move him to confess **BUT HE REFUSED.**
4. **Strong Encouragement to Confess:** <sup>4</sup> **For day and night Your hand was heavy upon [against] me; My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. Selah.**
- a. The LORD – Was Against David:
    - i. He ♣loved David and ♣wanted him to repent. Dr. Kretzmann: “...the wrath of God rests upon [the unrepentant], giving them a foretaste of the terrible punishment which will strike them in hell.”
    - ii. Jesus said to the lukewarm church in Laodicea: “Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore, be zealous and repent” (Rev. 3:19).
  - b. David – Was Physically Drained:
    - i. Like playing a vigorous sport.
    - ii. Like working all day in the hot sun.

- c. Selah – Pause and Think: The LORD’s desire for David:
  - i. Remember My amazing forgiveness.
  - ii. Compare it with your present misery.
  - iii. Heartily confess your sins.

5. **The Joy of Confession and Forgiveness:** <sup>5</sup> I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD”; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah.

- a. Full Disclosure:
  - i. The LORD’s work on David was successful, *his heart became contrite!*
  - ii. Therefore, he ♦admitted all his sins, ♦made no excuses, and ♦took full responsibility.
  - iii. David was encouraged to confess because of who the LORD is: “You are a God of forgiveness, Gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness” (Neh. 9:17).
- b. Full Forgiveness: Based on the sin-canceling work of the coming Messiah, **forgiveness** was ♦offered by the LORD and ♦received by David’s believing heart. *May the LORD keep granting us the same!*

**Let Us Pray:** Dear LORD, we have ♦sinned, ♦tried to excuse our sin, and ♦tried to cover up our sin. Since such things are never good, help us to ♦learn from **Psalm 32**, ♦quickly and fully confess our sins, and ♦relax in Your amazing forgiveness!

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