



7/30/26

Psalm 32

Our next reason for rehearsing the gospel daily to ourselves is that it provides the basis for all we need to know for life and godliness, and Colossians 1:23 calls us to "continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel." The gospel is our hope. I want to think about that and remember it! Don't you?

*Blessings,
Jonna*

King David became a prodigal of the Lord when he chose to let his desire for a woman's beauty cloud his judgment. He took her to himself and slept with her. I believe she had no choice in the matter. Then, to cover up his sin when she became pregnant, he first tried to get her husband who was out at war (where David was also supposed to be) to sleep with his wife. When he wouldn't sleep with his wife because of honor to the king, David had him killed. Then he married Bathsheba. He thought nothing of it. No one, other than a few of his servants and the leader of his army, knew anything of what he had done. They stayed silent out of loyalty (and maybe fear). It wasn't until a year later that God confronted David through His prophet Nathan. God gave David a year to come to his senses and repent on his own. It wasn't until David realized that he couldn't hide his sin from the Lord that he turned in repentance. David faced the consequences of his sin, but God did not condemn him for his sin. God is so merciful!!!

I'm not sure when David wrote Psalm 32. He wrote Psalm 51 in response to this situation. But maybe he wrote Psalm 32 after that... possibly when he looked back and saw how good God was in light of his sin. Maybe he wrote Psalm 32 to give us a glimpse of what was really going on in his heart during the time that he was outwardly behaving as if everything was okay. He probably acted like he was good with God.

Sadly, I think the church has a lot of actors walking around, pretending that everything is good, but living a lie. I have been one of those actors... not a good one. As I'll see from Psalm

32, freedom comes in stopping the act and returning to the Lord! I don't ever want to go back to fake again!!! And I want to use this psalm as a prayer for myself not to go back there, as well as prayer for those who are stuck there.

Vs. 1-2 ~ "Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit."

This does not say, "Blessed is the man who never transgresses, rebels, or who never sins against the Lord." If that were the requirement, no one would be blessed. I love how the Hebrew transliteration says it, "Blessed is the one with transgression LIFTED, with sin covered." This is so cool. Vs. 3 is going to say that when David kept silent, when he covered his own sin, he was miserable! But when God covers our sin with His forgiveness, we're blessed.

I'm blessed when God does not "reckon" or count my guilt against me. I'm blessed when there's no deceit in my spirit. What does that mean? Does this take me back to the thought that I have to be perfect??? NO! It means that I stop deceiving myself by thinking that I am capable of perfection!!! I stop living a lie by ignoring my sin against God.

What is the quickest way to harden my heart against God? Ignore my sin and refuse to repent. The more I ignore my sin against God, the more I delude myself into believing that I'm good without Him... the more I stop seeing my need for Him. That's what happens to a prodigal. We don't wake up one day and just say, "I think I'll completely turn my back on God today." It's little choice after little choice... little white lie after little white lie... little tiny sin after little tiny sin... that build a brick wall that becomes like the wall of China. And yet, God is able to tear that wall down. And He loves us too much to let us keep building that wall without consequence. O Lord, please break whatever needs to be broken in me so that You can build up a heart for You that cannot be shaken.

Vs. 3-5 ~ "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. Selah (ponder this)... I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah (ponder this)."

This gives deep insight into what was happening with David. On the outside, he portrayed that he was at peace. He might have even said he was. This is why I can never use my feelings to gauge what's true. I have to use the word of God! It reveals what's really going on in my heart.

On the outside, David looked like he had it all together. On the inside, he felt absolutely miserable. He probably tried to cover up his misery by doing things that helped him escape, but that can only last so long. He kept silent before the Lord. He went through the motions but he avoided the truth, and his bones wasted away. He had no strength. He was groaning all day long, though he tried to cover it up.

God exposed him. Some might say that's cruel. But it's devoted love. God doesn't expose sin to condemn His kids, but to rescue us. Some people have that happen and get mad at God. David, who was called a man after God's own heart, saw his sin against the Lord and confessed it to Him. Psalm 51 is that confession. Psalm 32 is a beautiful picture of what God does when we confess. It's a picture of what John says in 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

God hears our confession when we first... acknowledge it. Don't try to hide it from Him. Then confess it. Agree with Him that it's wrong, and turn from it. Lots of people acknowledge their sin... but we have to do more than admit it. I can't pursue God AND pursue sin at the same time, just as I can't travel to California and South Carolina at the same time. BUT when I do confess my sin, God forgives and lifts the guilt from me. He bears my guilt FOR me. That's the gospel! Let me never take His mercy for granted!!!

Vs. 6-7 ~ "Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when you may be found;" Wait... let everyone who is godly? Isn't this all about the fact that David didn't behave in a godly way??? This is a huge lesson for me. Godly means "devoted to God." God knows my devotion to Him won't mean perfection. What it does mean is that when He exposes the sin of my heart, I don't try to justify it or pretend it doesn't exist. I don't try to blame others for my actions or feelings. I agree with the Lord that it needs to go. And I turn to Him instead of my sin.

"Surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him." This is probably alluding to the worldwide flood when Noah built the ark. David was saying that when we're devoted to God, the flood waters will not take us down as it did those who refused to repent.

"You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with shouts of deliverance. Selah"

This is such a beautiful picture of the compassionate and loving devotion of God. Instead of condemning me for my sin, He lets me come to Him. Instead of hiding FROM Him, He becomes the place where I can hide. According to the original Hebrew, He keeps me from distress! Psalm 118:5 says, "Out of my distress (even the distress caused by my own sin) I cried to the Lord. The Lord answered me and set me free, and delivered me from all my fears." How great is my God!!! He should throw me away for what I've done to Him! Even my best efforts are often filled with selfish motives and arrogance. And yet He still delivers me from myself!!! He surrounds me with shouts of deliverance, not shouts of condemnation!!! O Lord, praise Your name!!!

Vs. 8-10 ~ "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you." How good is my God? He not only forgives me for what I do wrong. He counsels me and trains me so that I know where to go. I'm never lost with Him. He sees me. He sees ME. I matter to Him!

He says, "Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you." There's a guy in my neighborhood who walks his dog without a leash. He carries the leash with him just in case, but his dog is so secure in his master's presence and so loyal, that his pet parent doesn't need to leash him. Father, I want to be so secure in You and so loyal to You that You don't have to leash me. I want to understand You so well that I know You're the safest, most wonderful place to be. I want to be like those horses that love their master so much that when someone tries to steal them, they break out and run back to their master. Please help me to see You for who You are, and I'll never run from You again.

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

Lord, everyone has sorrows, no matter who they are. But the sorrow of those who reject You only increase. And Your loving devotion surrounds the one who simply trusts You. Please grow my faith... whatever it takes. I would rather live in the midst of trouble while Your loving devotion surrounds me and Your shouts of deliverance sustain me, than live in delusion thinking that life could ever be better without You.

Vs. 11 ~ Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!"

I have so much reason to be glad and rejoice and shout for joy in You! You make me righteous. You give me an upright heart. You forgive me. You lift me up from the pit of my own destruction. You put Your hand on me when I need to repent so that I feel the weight of my sin. And then You teach me and counsel me with Your eye on me. You surround me with shouts of deliverance and You surround me with Your steadfast love. You relieve my distress. You hide me from the waters that would drown me. None of that goodness comes to the one who refuses to come to You. There is no alternative god who can do all the good You do!

O Lord, I pray for the prodigals that are walking around in our church, those who can speak the right answers but are missing out on the beautiful relationship that You want to have with us, that are refusing to confess their sins to you... thinking that their lives are better off by staying quiet. Father, please help me to never stay quiet!!! Let me keep coming to You, let me learn from You, let me hide myself in You.