

SERIES TITLE: **SURVIVAL SONGS**

PART THREE: **SURVIVING YESTERDAY'S MISTAKES**

TEXT: **PSALM 32**

#### **INTRODUCTION.**

This series focuses on seven songs from the Hymnal of Scripture—the Psalms. This collection was written and compiled over a period of perhaps 1,000 years. King David wrote 75 of the Psalms. Asaph and the sons of Korah were also major contributors, while Solomon, Moses, Heman, and Ethan are also named. In 48 cases, the author is not identified. The seven psalms in this study have a survival theme. In each one, the human author expresses some desperate longing or need. We can identify with these feelings of abandonment, fear, guilt, and distress. These honest songs have much to teach us about how God works during such times.

#### **DISCUSSION.**

A British physician was reported to say, “I could dismiss half my patients tomorrow, if they could be assured of forgiveness.” How much validity would you give to a statement like that? Has there been an experience of forgiveness between you and another person, or between you and God, that has been greatly significant?

#### **EXAMINATION.**

Vv.1-2 David uses three different Hebrew words to describe sin.

- “Transgressions” is about trespassing, stepping over God’s boundaries. What are some acts of transgression that are obvious, and some that might be subtle?
- “Sin” means to miss the mark, or miss the way. Simply put, we don’t do what we should do. What are some ways in which indifference, silence, fear, laziness become sinful?
- “Iniquity” is to bend, twist, distort. This concerns things that might look good, but are actually bad because of our motive or intent. Using these categories, the definition of sin is widened. What does or should this do to our personal perspective of our sinful condition? Compare Romans 3:9-20.

Each of the sin words is coupled with a forgiveness word. “Forgiven” means carried away, removed. “Covered” describes something that is no longer exposed to view, not left in the open. “Counts” refers to God’s attitude that sin not be scored against us. How do these expressions inform our understanding of God’s forgiveness?

Vv.3-4 David describes the toll taken on his physical, emotional, and spiritual health as a result of his silence concerning his sin. Some say he is using metaphor; others say this was his actual experience. Which view makes sense to you, and why?

V.5 All three sin words are repeated here in reverse order. According to what David says here, how do you get to the place of blessing?

**APPLICATION.**

- What is the difference between being a “mistaker” and being a “sinner”?
- How is it acceptable or even expected that church people cover up sin?
- How can we get away from the tendency to rename and minimize our sinfulness?
- What will it take to have the people of God characterized by blessing and joy, rather than pride and propriety?
- How does the situation described in Luke 7:36ff, inform us about how God’s forgiveness should impact his people?
- Apply Jesus’ words in Luke 7:47. What should someone who has been forgiven much, act like?
- FACT: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- REACT: What did you feel?
- ACT: What are you going to do?