

## ***Blessed Forgiveness***

Psalm 32

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.

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*

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*

Therefore let everyone who is godly  
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;  
surely in the rush of great waters,  
they shall not reach him.

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

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

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.

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

Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

*Who does the world consider "blessed?"* The rich. The powerful. The popular. Those whose life is easy. Those who know famous people, or are famous themselves. Athletes, especially those at the top of their game. Those who have what they want. These are the people looked up to and admired. They are blessed, we think!

But the *forgiven*? Not so much. Maybe a little. As in, *it's better to ask for forgiveness than for permission!* (So you can get away with what you want to do.) But usually, forgiveness is not on our radar when we think of blessing.

Yet according to this psalm, that's exactly who is blessed.

*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.*

Clearly, God's idea of blessing is quite different than ours. So either God just doesn't get it (which some think), or we need to adjust *our* thinking and recalibrate how we think about blessing. And that's actually the case. For sin isn't just something we do, it's like an infection that has effected our whole body, including our thinking. Like when you're sick and you can't think straight.

So as the psalm says, *I will instruct you and teach you.* So let's think about forgiveness a bit . . .

How about the spouse who messed up big time and needs their husband or wife's forgiveness? How blessed is forgiveness then?

How about the teenager who got in an accident and cracked up her parents' car? How blessed is forgiveness then?

How about the child who hears these words: *Just wait 'til your father gets home!* How blessed is forgiveness then?

How about when the policeman's blue lights fill your rear view mirror? How blessed is forgiveness then?

How about when your mistake at work cost the company a contract or because of you they lost a lot of money? How blessed is forgiveness then?

Those are just a few examples. But how much more so with God, the one who holds our eternal life in His hands? We've messed up big time with Him. We've cracked up our lives. We've done what we're not supposed to do, and not done what we are supposed to do. We've rebelled, turned away, made mistakes, treated Him badly, and what else?

And because of all this, the psalmist talks about sleepless nights, a guilty conscience, the worries of threats and troubles all around, all it's all making his life miserable! And as King David (who wrote this psalm) knew, no amount of money, power, popularity, or adoration, could make that go away. Only one thing could: *forgiveness*.

So how blessed, how blessed to hear from God: **I forgive you!**

How blessed, how blessed are we to hear from Jesus (the promised Son of David) that He came to take our sin and punishment upon Himself, so that we could be forgiven. And He did when He died on the cross for us. He didn't deserve that - we did!

And how blessed, how blessed to hear that we're not just forgiven now, but forever. That we will have a home in heaven with God and be blessed forever.

So this psalm really is right after all. *Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven*. And that is a blessing we can not only receive, but also give to others! And once you know how blessed forgiveness is for you, how wonderful, then, to give that same blessing to others.

And imagine, imagine if everyone in the world did that! Think that just might change the world?

*Lord God, thank You for forgiving my sins! Thank you for sending Your Son to die on the cross for me, that I may have peace of mind and heart, knowing*

*that my sins do not condemn me when I am in Jesus. Help me to believe this and to always remember how blessed I am to be forgiven! Heal me of my sin-sickness, that I begin to think rightly, and help me also to give this blessing, this forgiveness, to those who sin against me. Amen.*