

Palmetto Baptist Church – December 16, 2018

A Second Chance – Psalm 32

Opening Illustration:

SECOND CHANCE

On New Year's Day, 1929, Georgia Tech played University of California in the Rose Bowl. In that game a man named Roy Riegels recovered a fumble for California. Somehow, he became confused and started running 65 yards in the wrong direction. One of his teammates, Benny Lom, outdistanced him and downed him just before he scored for the opposing team. When California attempted to punt, Tech blocked the kick and scored a safety which was the ultimate margin of victory.

That strange play came in the first half, and everyone who was watching the game was asking the same question: "What will Coach Nibbs Price do with Roy Riegels in the second half?" The men filed off the field and went into the dressing room. They sat down on the benches and on the floor, all but Riegels. He put his blanket around his shoulders, sat down in a corner, put his face in his hands, and cried like a baby.

If you have played football, you know that a coach usually has a great deal to say to his team during half time. That day Coach Price was quiet. No doubt he was trying to decide what to do with Riegels. Then the timekeeper came in and announced that there were three minutes before playing time. Coach Price looked at the team and said simply, "Men the same team that played the first half will start the second." The players got up and started out, all but Riegels. He did not budge. The coach looked back and called to him again; still he didn't move. Coach Price went over to where Riegels sat and said, "Roy, didn't you hear me? The same team that played the first half will start the second." Then Roy Riegels looked up and his cheeks were wet with a strong man's tears. "Coach," he said, "I can't do it to save my life. I've ruined you, I've ruined the University of California, I've ruined myself. I couldn't face that crowd in the stadium to save my life." Then Coach Price reached out and put his hand on Riegel's shoulder and said to him: "Roy, get up and go on back; the game is only half over." And Roy Riegels went back, and those Tech men will tell you that they have never seen a man play football as Roy Riegels played that second half.

[Haddon W. Robinson, *Christian Medical Society Journal*.](#)

I. The Setting

- **A Maskil** – a technical term that refers to a “contemplative poem.” Or a “psalm of understanding,” or a “skillful psalm.”
- 2 Samuel 11-12 & Psalm 51
 - Note the use of the same three words to describe sin as found in Psalm 51
 - Transgression (1a) – outward rebellion
 - Sin (1b) – missing the mark
 - Iniquity (2) – deliberately twisting the truth
 - The three words are repeated in verse 5 (sin, iniquity, **transgression**, iniquity, and sin... with **transgression** {outward rebellion} serving as the central description of David’s actions.)

II. The Structure:

A. A two-fold reflection¹

1. David remembering the lessons he learned. (1-5)
 - a. Lessons about results (1-2)
 - b. Lessons about resistance (3-4)
 - c. Lessons about responses (5)
2. David relaying these lessons to others. (6-12)
 - a. Lessons about responses (6-7)
 - b. Lessons about resistance (8-9)
 - c. Lessons about results (10-12)

B. A chiasmic construction.²

A chiasm (also called a chiasmus) is a literary device in which a sequence of ideas is presented and then repeated *in reverse order*. The result is a “mirror” effect as the ideas are “reflected” back in a passage. Each idea is connected to its “reflection” by a repeated word, often in a related form. The term *chiasm* comes from the Greek letter *chi*, which looks like our letter *X*.

HAPPINESS when David experiences forgiveness. (1-2)

HARDSHIP when David attempted to hide his sin. (3-4)

HOPE when David confessed his sin. (5)

HOPE when you confess your sin. (6-7)

HARDSHIP when you conceal your sin. (8-9)

HAPPINESS when you experience forgiveness from your sin. (10-11)

A number of years ago researchers performed an experiment to see the effect hope has on those undergoing hardship. Two sets of laboratory rats were placed in separate tubs of water. The researchers left one set in the water and found that within an hour they had all drowned. The other rats were periodically lifted out of the water and then returned. When that happened, the second set of rats swam for over 24 hours. Why? Not because they were given a rest, but because they suddenly had hope!

¹ John MacArthur Study Bible Notes on Psalm 32

² <https://www.gotquestions.org/chiasm-chiastic.html>

Those animals somehow hoped that if they could stay afloat just a little longer, someone would reach down and rescue them. If hope holds such power for unthinking rodents, how much greater should its effect be on our lives.

Today in the Word, May, 1990, p. 34.

C. A Gospel connection.

- **Verse 5... An appeal to practice genuine confession to God (vs. 5; I John 1:9)**
 - Another chiastic structure (sin, iniquity, **transgression**, iniquity, sin)
 1. I acknowledge my sin to you.
 2. I did not cover my iniquity.
 3. I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.

- **Verse 6... An appeal to enjoy a direct access to God – MANIFESTED THROUGH A VIBRANT PRAYER LIFE (based on your Great High Priest)**
 - 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.
 - Rush of great waters refers to judgment (Ps. 18:4, 16; 42:7; 69:1; 144:7).
 - **The salvation found through the ark in the midst of the flood (2 Peter 3:5-6; 2:4-5; I Peter 3:18-22).**

- **Verse 7... An appeal to have a renewed confidence in God – MANIFESTED THROUGH VIVACIOUS PRAISE (based on the finished work for Jesus)**
 - **You feel secure** – a hiding place for me (Ps. 91:1; 119:114)
 - **You feel safe** – you preserve me from trouble (Ps. 9:9)
 - **You feel satisfied** – you surround me with shouts of deliverance (Ex. 15:1-18; Judges 5:1-31; Luke 1:46-55 and 68-79)

Illustration about the joy that came after receiving a second chance:

Thomas A. Edison was working on a crazy contraption called a "light bulb" and it took a whole team of men 24 straight hours to put just one together. The story goes that when Edison was finished with one light bulb, he gave it to a young boy helper, who nervously carried it up the stairs. Step by step he cautiously watched his hands, obviously frightened of dropping such a priceless piece of work. You've probably guessed what happened by now; the poor young fellow dropped the bulb at the top of the stairs. It took the entire team of men twenty-four more hours to make another bulb. Finally, tired and ready for a break, Edison was ready to have his bulb carried up the stairs. He gave it to the same young boy who dropped the first one. That's true forgiveness.

[James Newton, *Uncommon Friends: Life with Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, Alexis Carrel and Charles Lindbergh*, 1989, p.22.](#)

I. The Setting

III. The Structure

III. The Solution

- A. Stop running from God and concealing your sin. (vs. 3-4)
 - 1. It will cause physical pain.
 - For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. (3)
 - 2. It will cause emotional distress.
 - For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength (vitality) was dried up as by the heat of summer. (4)

- B. Stop resisting godly counsel. (8-9)
 - 1. Godly counsel is sensitive. (8)
 - a. I will instruct you. – to make prudent or help understand (develop discernment that we keep you on the right path)
 - b. I will teach you. – to cast or lay a foundation (develop a vision of what the future could and should look like when you are restored)
 - c. I will counsel you with my eye upon you. – to advise, plan, or coach (helping you make wise decisions that protect you from falling)
 - 2. Godly counsel is protective. (9)
 - a. Don't be presumptuous like a horse. (Going ahead of God)
 - b. Don't be stubborn like a mule. (Lagging behind God)

- C. Joyfully lift up your voice in personal and corporate worship. (1-2 & 10-11)
 - 1. Based on a clear conscience. (1-2)
 - Note the soothing words: forgiven, covered, no longer counted against you, no deceit...
 - 2. Based on a clear understanding of who God is and what He does for His own. (10-11)
 - He loves and protects.
 - O righteous
 - All you upright in heart
 - He receives praise.
 - Be glad, rejoice, shout for joy

- D. Patiently wait for God to rebuild your reputation with others.
 - 1. Your sin takes a toll. [impact on David's family]
 - 2. Restoration with God requires trust. [2 Samuel 12:20-23]
 - 3. Restoration of broken relationships with others takes time. [Birth and succession of Solomon...fulfillment of the promise made to David in 2 Samuel 7. (Matthew 18:23-25 parable of demonstrating genuine forgiveness...)]