



Forgiveness Psalm 32:1-7

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

Review:

- **Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name** - prayer begins by putting our heart and mind in the proper orientation...with worship. Why?
- **Your Kingdom come** - prayer begins with worship and then recognizes the Kingdom of God and the Lordship of Jesus Christ. "My kingdom go, Your kingdom come."
- **Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven** - prayer begins with worship, it recognizes God's authority, then submits to and longs for God's will to be accomplished.
- **Give us this day our daily bread** - prayer then moves to a place where the worshipper acknowledges complete dependence on God to meet our needs, not our greeds, but our needs.
- **And forgive us our debts** - last week in Psalm 51 we felt the heaviness, ugliness, and brokenness of David's sin and his desperate desire for reconciliation with God and forgiveness from his overwhelming weight of sin and debt.
- **This week: As we also have forgiven our debtors** - We're going to look at Psalm 32 and see how David experiences the blessing of forgiveness as well as his desire to see others experience God's forgiveness.

Psalm 32:1-2 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

The depths of sin (vs 1-2)

Use of 3 different terms to show the heinous nature and character of sin.

- Sin - unlearned response
- Transgression - willful rebellion
- Iniquity - premeditated revolt

What is sin? At its core, what is it?

Romans 11:36 "For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forevermore. Amen."

Sin is everything that runs contrary to God's character and anything that robs Him of His glory.

What does it mean to be forgiven?

- Judicial term - Pardon for an offense, to release from judgment, clean record
 - God is seen as the Judge.
- Banking term - To excuse payment owed for a debt, to clear the account
 - God is seen as the Banker.
 - How have we offended God?
 - What debt do we owe?
 - Wrath vs Forgiveness
 - Who's paying? (self or Jesus through faith)

What is David saying in Psalm 32:1-2?

- Notice the three facets of forgiveness:
 - God has forgiven his sin - sin is seen as a heavy burden, his sin is removed and carried away
 - God has covered his transgression - sin is seen as a defect, his stain is wiped out
 - God no longer counts his iniquity against him - treats him as innocent

Psalm 32:3-4 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah*

The effects of sin (vs 3-4)

- David is describing his condition before Nathan confronted him, and before he confessed and repented, in the middle of two bookends (sin-confession).
- Sin affects us physically, emotionally, mentally, spiritually.
 - David needed to be confronted by Nathan before he finally got it, that he needed to deal with his sin, that he needed forgiveness from God.
 - Why did it take so long? Blinded by his own pride perhaps?

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

- What does sin do?
 - It separates us from God.

Psalm 32:5 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.

Our response to sin (vs 5)

- What does it mean to confess? Repent?
- Forgiveness doesn't mean that the consequences of sin have been removed, but that fellowship with God has been restored.

Psalm 32:6-7 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. 7 You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

Our response to forgiveness (vs 6-7)

- Confessing time is mercy time!
- Is there ever a time when God can't be found?
 - Our natural instincts are to run and try to hide from God like Adam and Eve. Why run from the only One that can truly restore and reconcile?

Recap - What is sin? What does it mean to be forgiven? How should the vertical impact the horizontal?

Matthew 18:21-35 (Parable of the Unforgiving Servant)

- God has lavishly forgiven His people, they should in turn freely and continuously extend the same forgiveness to others.
- Understanding how much God has forgiven us in Christ, how can we not but freely forgive others?
- This parable makes the same point Jesus made in the Sermon on the Mount (7:15-18) that a good tree will bear good fruit, bad tree bad fruit. You know the kind of tree it is by the fruit it bears.
 - One of the defining marks of God's people is that they forgive.

Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

- God's forgiveness of us is the basis for our forgiveness of others.
- **The forgiven must be forgiving**, not in order to be justified, but because we already are justified before God!

Colossians 3:13 "bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

- Christ is the example that we are to model.
- Jesus model of forgiveness is exemplified with His dying words, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."
 - Jesus loved His enemies. Jesus lived to love and serve His enemies. Jesus ultimately died for His enemies.

What does it look like to walk in that kind of forgiveness? (unnatural apart from God)

- Luke 6:27 - Love our enemy, seek to do them good
- Luke 6:28 - Pray for them (be careful how you pray)
- Luke 6:29/Prov 20:22 - Understand that revenge belongs to the Lord
- Luke 6:30 - Be willing to provide for their needs

Matthew 6:15 "But if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

What does Jesus mean?

- An unforgiving heart is often characteristic of an unforgiven heart. A forgiving heart is one of the results from spiritual rebirth (John 3:3).
 - Can't share what you haven't experienced. Can't give what you don't have.

- Forgiveness should be one of the distinguishing characteristics of God's people because they have experienced genuine forgiveness from God, and they understand the infinite amount of sin debt they have been freely forgiven.

Hebrews 10:24 "Let us consider how to stir up one another towards love and good works."

- That would certainly include forgiveness.
- Have you come to know and experience true forgiveness from God? (first)
- Who do you need to forgive? (second)