

S.N. Sept-11, 77 A.M -
(Passive)

"HOW MUCH FORGIVENESS DO YOU NEED?"

Psalm 32

Who is the happiest person you know today? The happiest person who goes around (helping other) people, and telling them what has happened for them. Whoever wrote this Psalm, knew much about the spiritual experience of an (ordinary human) being. Now we know that it was probably written a long time before the coming of Christ. But he was familiar with all of the great facts of the grace of God. The expression and the language in it tell us this. David had his good days and his bad days. And he wrote this Psalm - there must have been music in his heart. Because he starts off - "blessed is he. And it is concluded with - be glad in the Lord and rejoice.

Now there is no problem figuring out the reason for his joy. He has done something that he ought not have done and he had accepted the full responsibility for his actions. And he has repented fully. He knows that he has been forgiven.

There is nothing like forgiveness for making a heart scene. How much forgiveness do you need?

Augustine loved this Psalm. This comes as no surprise because he was aware of his reprobate life. Before conversion to Christ.

In the New Testament, Jesus offered forgiveness to Pharisees and to sinners. And it is quite clear that those who know what it is to be forgiven, know that it is to love the Lord. Even forgiven much, they love much.

David has something to come into his life. And it awakens him, as in Psalm 51 - he promises the Lord that he is going to spend the rest of his days telling others about his salvation. He is now doing the best he can in Psalm 32. His sins have been washed away, and he has been pardoned, cleansed, and forgiven, restored - and a new heart. Supreme happiness is here.

For an accurate picture of the experience of human life, we study this and find that the reward is in a transformed life. Each person needs to listen to what this man has to say. Because he is going to tell you about getting forgiveness. And how much forgiveness will you need.

killing people. Or it some fellow that cheats people.

Then there are other people who think that sin is breaking the Ten Commandments.

There are others who know that sin is pride, greed, lack of faith. But there are some who really don't think these things are as bad a sins as others. This is the error on the part of Christians. Because we don't think the sins of pride, jealousy, or greed are rooted like the other sins.

Because we do not understand sin, we have little idea of the forgiveness of God. There are some who think that they have never done anything very bad to God and they have not needed very much forgiveness from God.

Now this is very dangerous. We could be the greatest sinner in the world because we deny God the right to be God. And yet there are people on this earth that continually sin in this attitude. And the man here is talking about the far reaching implications of transgression. Which is to transgress or to trespass.

Quite often you read a sign ^{" Dr. Stewart Brisco said when} trespassers will be prosecuted. ^{his was} A little boy was walking with his Daddy one day when he saw such a sign and asked what did that mean? He says, it means if you go where you shouldn't - they will prop you up against a fence and you will be shot. He said it with a grin. Now the boy heard the words but he couldn't understand the grin. Later, however, he learned that such notices let people know there are places where people are not free to go. And if they do, they must bear the consequences. That really is the meaning of transgression.

God has outlined the limit of human behavior. He has made it clear and he expects us to operate within that realm. Man may call his kind of behavior the keeping up with society. God just calls it transgression. Every time you or I step over the God-given limits of human behavior, we transgress. And the moment we do, we are responsible for sin.

The next word he uses is sin. Sin is covered. Now this means a failure or missing the mark. It means an error. It means coming short. Sin is the real cause of unhappiness. We have done those things which we ought not to have done. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done. Doing what we ought

of that which is false. Play acting, performing behind a mask. People live behind a mask. Much of their lives. We get so caught up in our guile that we play games with God. We tell him things we don't mean. We sing praises to him that isn't true. We promise things to God that we have no intention of performing. We become skilled at this.

Have you ever thought - if only I had gotten into sin in a big way, I could have been forgiven in a big way. I couldn't help but love God in a big way.

The truth of the matter is, you did get into sin in a big way. Day after day when the miserable sin of transgression and sin, iniquity, and guile - you have constantly done which was forbidden. You have left undone that which was required. You have perverted often the right.

Someone asked Martin Luther what was his favorite Psalm. He said the Paul Psalms. What Psalm did Paul write? - well, not any that we know of. But Psalm 32, is one of those that Paul used. (Rom. 4:6, 8) you will understand what Luther meant when he said this. Where Paul wrote about the great doctrine of justification by faith. He did not invent it. David did. And he wrote about the forgiveness that David mentions in this Psalm. He uses the term forgiven, and the term covet, not imputed. Each has depth of meaning that we should understand.

Yes, he talked about the forgiveness - transgression must be lifted up and taken away. Born away by sacrifice. The sin must be covered - hidden from the sight of God. Iniquity must be reckoned to his account, cancelled. For here is a full picture of sin in the heart. And the sinner has been completely contaminated.

The record book is against him.

And the New Testament Gospel, God bears away and covers and cancels the record of any rebellion, error, or crookedness. The Lamb of God comes to take away my sin. He died to pay that debt. If your sins are not taken away by this lamb of God, they will remain and crush you. David had the story exactly right when he talked about this. No wonder he was a happy man when he was writing part of this Psalm.

The words to make or to cover is found in the ancient story of Cain and Abel. Gen. 4. The Lord said to Cain, after the crime what have you done. The voice of your brother's blood cries from the ground. How can a crime or a sin be covered. Now the primitive way was ^{to} throw earth over the blood. God's way is to throw love over sin. The whole story of salvation is here in this passage. Heb. 12:18-24. Abel's blood of vengeance pleaded to the skies. But the blood of Jesus for our pardon cries.

We are all familiar with the scape goat - it was part of the Hebrew system for forgiveness. The goat was selected by the high priest who would lay its hand on its head and confess over it its sins, iniquities, transgressions of the people. And put the weight of sin upon the goat. And the animal was led in the wilderness and the children of Israel were reminded how God put away sin. And this was basic behind the forgiveness that David used.

Since Christ came, we no longer need that. Because he arose and was buried in our sins now - as far as the East is from the West. Sins are not out of sight from God.

When I have been in a position where I have been required to forgive someone, the thing about that is - I'm not sure that always in my forgiving - that I am forgiven. But real forgiveness forgets. And that's the thing about what David said imputing We use the word reckon, the Bible says that God will not reckon our sins to us. It means, to put them on our account. Our debt has been settled. And that is great news - that he has paid our debts for us.

II. DECEITFULNESS OF SIN - V. 3-4

What does man try to do with his sins, There are very few who are bold enough to say that they do not have some sins. But here we discovered the deceitfulness and what a man tried to do with his, and the horrible memory which he had. And he is giving us the picture of what happened in his own experience. He said, I chose to cover them up.

V. 3 - I just kept silent. He sought to hide. Yes, sometimes when a man talks about his sins - he shifts the sins to someone else. He covers up. Like Adam and Eve, the first thing they sought to do was to hide their sins.

He sought and refused to face his sins. That is the hardest word that he had to say - I've sinned. And that is the awful fact about sin in your life.

Treating sin lightly - he only deceived himself. And perhaps there are people today who do the same thing. Who deceive themselves. What was the hindrance to confessing sin. I kept silent. Perhaps pride. Maybe there was a weak conscience. Maybe carelessness. Maybe stubbornness. Maybe he did not realize God's claim or the view of God in the face of the law. But in his experience, he finds it hard to

find forgiveness. Without some pressures on him - that he talks about in these verses.

He said, I waxed - my bones waxed old.

V. (4) And my moisture is turned into drought. The Psalmist says the (sap) of life was gone. The trees of the Lord are full of sap. It is planted by the rivers of water. But his moisture had dried up and was parched. His bones waxed old. He could feel himself drying up in his silence, he tried to hide his sin. But there was (no peace). His sin was always troubling him. His conscience was a thing that haunted him. And that was God's hand upon him. And bearing very heavy.

What he is explaining was a battle. And he was conscious of sin, and he was more aware of the necessity of dealing with it. The pressures of God came upon him.

In brief words, there was suffering such as guilt and conviction. He was dry, depressed. Upset. And the longer he kept silent, the worse he became. And when he became of acknowledging and confessing - he was able to say - thou forgavest me. But David tried running away and a lot of people try that today! In dealing with their sins. But that is tragic, my friends. His situation had become unbearable and he was frantic about it and something had been strangling his life. And he broke out in a sweat and there was no relief for him. Why, he was not seeking forgiveness. He was being deceived by sin.

III. DESTRUCTION OF SIN - V. 5-11

We have look at the lives of great saints, they

We give attention now to these final verses. We are able to find forgiveness, but we don't seem to be able to find it -

V. 5 tells us that finally he confesses and finds forgiveness. He saw clearly the way of restoration. The path to the light of forgiveness. And he said, "I acknowledge my sins unto thee. My iniquities I have not hid. And I will confess my transgressions. Here is a man who is opening his heart - he is not hiding a thing. He did not attempt to conceal. It was all open before God. No road to light or happiness can be found anywhere else.

Why does a man continue to cover his sin and suffer untold misery? David said, I acknowledge my sins. And how marvelous that was to actually confess his sin and our sin. It's the way of the cross for us. And it took a resurrection. And it took the drops of blood from our Lord to bring about this forgiveness for us.

" Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sins. He shows how quickly God answers. God acted. When he made the acknowledgement, God did not wait. The Psalmist decided that he would meet God and God met him.

" I think what he is saying is, the moment I made up my mind to do it - God acted that instant. It is the true picture of God. And that is the way to destroy sin. God was ready to pardon. I wish we had some figure of speech to help us to understand the meaning of that - ready to pardon. There is no figure of speech finer than the man has used here for us. That God is so ready that when man makes up his mind and confesses, he is forgiven the moment that he does confess. He does not wait for any formalities. He feels with your attitude and listens. God does not have to wait for the next revival meeting to roll around to grant you forgiveness. He does not have to wait until some evangelist comes to town for you

John Chrysostom writes: *Forgive, O God, our sinning ways,
The rival altars that we raise
The wrangling tongues that man thy praise ...*
Confusing, the inward chime the living word - That song shall swell from shore to shore - one Hope, one faith
to confess your sin. The blessing of forgiveness and sin covered. *One love restore
The standard robe that Jesus wore.*

That statement really stirs our hearts today - you just can feel the burden falling off at our humble cry. David had written that sin had been committed and sin had been concealed. And now sin has been confessed and sin has been covered, and forgiven. And sin has been cancelled. That is the glorious climax for this Psalm. "He had been cleansed" - there is no dark blot against him now.

There is no other adequate solution to the problem of sin - No matter what the sin!

God will forgive our transgressions - it means that he will lift and carry them away and remove them.

V. 6 - He says when he found this forgiveness, he prayed. And he says the flood of great waters shall not come nigh unto him. What a picture. Here is a man who had obtained forgiveness, and he was naked before God. And he confessed and now what he says is - the great overflowing waters of judgement will never reach me. I've found a new hiding place.

Forgiveness + Grace - "The mercy which wipes out sin." "To wash over"

V. 7 - He talks about the hiding place which we had in God. And this is a terrific blessing to him. (Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself from Thee. Let the water and the blood from thy wounded side which flowed, be of sin the double cure, saved from wrath and made me pure.)

Faith in God gives the sweetest power of the unseen hand. How can he ignore the eternal Hell that awaits everyone who does not have Jesus Christ in the hour of judgement. He will not be unprepared but he is secure.

V. 8 - He has promised the guidance and the care of his eye. He is under the counsel of God now and God is going to guide him in this way. This is the picture

of God dealing with a troubled soul. He is saying God will point his finger the way I am to go. I will show you the right way. I will guide thee with mine eyes. God's eye will be upon him and I will never lose sight of you.

V. 9 - He refers to the bit and bridle in the horses and mules mouth. Now God has forgiven you and he is going to give you freedom. And he said, be not as a horse or as a mule - without understanding. You have freedom of forgiveness - but he says you are going to walk in my way. You are free to go on as before. But be perfectly clear in mind that because you have been forgiven, it doesn't leave you to be free to go on your own same self road.

Rather it introduces you to a (new way). When God forgave the woman of adultery he said, not, o.k. forget it. (No) he insisted that she had been forgiven. But what did he say. (Go now and sin no more.)

Do not be like a horse that has to be held with a bit and a bridle. Live up to the instructions of the Lord - he promises to guide you. Here is what he said.

Blissful Effects of Forgiveness - Peter - Blind, Transformed, Mary M. Magdalene, Rescued From The Streets; Paul, Fanatic, Changed & Changed History.

He is not saying to you, (now) that you have been forgiven, now you can go out and (sin some more). And then come back and find some more forgiveness. No! that is not what he is saying. He said the Lord is going to instruct and you must go in the right path. Jesus - Repairs The Breach Between Man & God (Made The Sick & Sins were Forgiven)

"Cross Father, forgive them -"
(1 John 1:9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful & just to forgive us our sins & cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

V. 10 - He speaks again to the (wicked man) and says to him - that he is going to have many sorrows, because he will not confess his sins. But he says the Lord will have mercy on the one that will confess. And he climaxes it in V. 11 - by saying there is joy in his soul.

(11) We can never repay God - wipe out the stain -

I SAW GOD WASH THE WORLD

I saw God wash the world last night
With His sweet shower on high;
And then when morning came
I saw Him hang it out to dry.

He washed each tiny blade of grass,
And every trembling tree;
He flung His showers against the hills
And swept the billowy sea.

The white rose is a cleaner white;
The red rose is more red
Since God washed every fragrant face
And put them all to bed.

There's not a bird, there's not a bee,
That wings along the way,
But is a cleaner bird and bee
Than it was yesterday.

I saw God wash the world last night;
Ah, would He had washed me
As clean of all my dust and dirt
As that old white birch tree!

—William L. Stidger

Do you need his mercy today? Many things in your life may need straightened out. There may be many things that hurt that need to be healed. How much forgiveness do you need? Do you understand the forgiveness of God.

Scottish Physician - Noted for Skill & Piety - After his Death His Books Examined - Put in

"Forgiven - too poor to pay" Wife Different Deposition, accounts must be paid!
Bitterness and harshness do not belong in the forgiven heart.

Sued for money - Judge asks Thy your Husband's Hand Writing in Red ink? - Yes
No Judge account in the hand can obtain the money where he has written "Forgiven" -

Let me say to you very honestly and earnestly that this Scripture teaches us likewise when Jesus writes word Forgiven across our forever of heaven, we that we can't walk around with hatred in our heart, and with an unloving spirit, are released from condemnation!

and the thing that ought to be flourishing is love and joy. In your experience of the forgiveness of God, learn to forgive those who offend you. Those who hurt you. It may be on your job at work.

Learn to forgive even your church, even when your church does not live up or meet your expectations. Learn to forgive when your children may disgrace you. God forgave you. And is willing to forgive you.

Have you had that soul saving experience. Have you taken your sins to him and spread them out in his sight. If you will come, he will set the joy bells ringing. If all of these things have happened in you, this is your experience. Why not break out in a song of praise. You'll be the happiest person on this earth. Luke says the early Christians gathered in the temple and in the houses and they talked and they preached Jesus Christ. What would happen in your church and in mine, if we go forth with such a testimony. Every neighbor we have, every person we meet. We told of the saving grace of God. How much forgiveness do you need today.

Oh say to the rock that is higher than I, oh souls in its conflicts and sorrows would fly. No sinful so weary, thine would I be. Thou blessed rock of ages, I'm hiding in thee.