

Intro: Number of years ago one of my daughters had a car that ate batteries! Every 4-6 months battery die...no reason We knew it was a small drain of some kind...trickling away...but couldn't find it. Finally broke down went to a mechanic Walked in, old guy sitting at desk, explained whole things to him..."Does your daughter smoke? No...Keep change in tray? Small drain...almost unnoticeable, but over time it destroys the battery

In Psalm 32 David says, that is what unconfessed sin is like in the life of a follower of God.

Slowly saps our vitality until there is nothing left, and our spiritual life is destroyed!

Vs 4: **Sapped:** Lit = My *Moisture was turned to Drought!* Illustration: Put sod in...lush and green, then 100 degree days! We kept watering it...Jimmy was during the day, grounds guys in the afternoon and evening DRY!

But he says, it doesn't HAVE to be that way! There is an alternative. Those who have walked this path before, age, wisdom, Hard won experience from making mistakes can tell us...THIS is what you do to overcome the drain:

This is How you Can Find Forgiveness

Psalm 32 Page 395

1. Remember The Blessing of Forgiveness.

Vs 1-2

David starts out with encouragement. Instead of starting where we start, with the problem, like he did in the Psalm last week David makes sure we start where we want to end up...Encouraged, strengthened, challenged and hopeful.

His goal is to give us the VISION for a better future. *Yes we sin, Yes we fall, Yes we do the wrong thing*

BUT, we don't have to LIVE in that...there is a better place...if we choose to respond to our sin in the right way:

- **Blessed:** Lit = Happy, blessed, Encouraged and peaceful: All of the above.
When we learn how to appropriately deal with our sin, the outcome is good...not bad! Can be different!
- **Transgressions Forgiven:** Rebellion or sin is lifted up and carried away! (Scapegoat)
- **Sin Covered:** Missing the Mark is covered up: (Blood sprinkled on altar, cover sin)
- **Sin not Counted against:** Not keeping count of the times when you go the wrong way!
- **No Guile:** NO falseness, treachery or deceit: One who doesn't lie to himself...Others...God

David starts off this Psalm on finding forgiveness by telling us how we should live if we want to have the blessing of forgiveness in our lives. It is possible to be human...with all of our faults, all of our sin, all of our shortcomings...and still be happy.

BUT: We have to choose the right path! We have to live the right way...respond to God in the way He desires

2. Understand the Burden of Sin.

Vs 3-4

When there is unconfessed sin in our life it drains us spiritually. We sometimes don't even know it!

Like the dime in the cigarette lighter, the drain is imperceptible sometimes, but always present, always there, always emptying Until one day we wake up and we realize...this is killing me...It is destroying me from the inside out!

David uses a number of different illustrations to make his point:

Ongoing deterioration from the inside out!

- **Bones wasting:** Bones were getting old, brittle, worn out and decaying: Wasting away inside me
- **Groaning all day:** Cries of anguish and distress: (Workout Tuesday and Friday: 1/2 Workout. 1/2 Whine!)
- **Hand heavy:** Burdensome weight, Heaviness of Affliction, Touch me and it hurts, Sin make me tender
- **Strength sapped:** Like the battery on the car...weaker...weaker...weaker..until one day...click, click, click

Applic: David tells us here what it is like to try to live life carrying the weight of our sin. Every day the burden gets heavier, and harder, and more difficult. It seems so small, so insignificant, so inconsequential...but before you know it the straw that breaks the camels back is there...and you collapse.

3. Accept The Balm Of Honesty And Confession.

Vs 5

You know what Balm is right? Balm is a healing, cooling ointment that you put on an injury or irritation to soothe and heal It's like calamine or steroid cream that you put on poison ivy.

Think Aloe when you put it on Sunburn. It cools...and it soothes, it heals and it promotes restoration.

What we talked about last night at Still Waters when the David wrote in Psm 23, "He RESTORES my soul!"

How does that happen?

- **Acknowledge our sin:** To see and recognize something for what it truly is: SIN, (Mistake, Miscalculation etc)
- **Don't cover it up:** To conceal something by plumping up the clothes! Cover it up, make it look good
- **Confess it to God:** I will lift it up before you with my hand...and you will take it and carry it away!
- **You Forgave:** You will take something and carry it away, Lift it from my hand

ILLUS: Picture...You holding something up to the Lord, your sin, your mistakes, your falling short...He takes it away!

When I did those things...Your forgave! You poured the healing balm of forgiveness on my bones, my heart, my spirit You brought soothing peace and grace. You caused me to experience the joy of your salvation and forgiveness. Your RESTORED MY SOUL!

4. Be Encouraged By The Promise Of God.

Vs 6-11

When we respond to our sin in faith, trusting God, confessing to Him, not trying to hide it from God, others or self He does a work of grace in us...and forgives us...Look at what He says He will do

- Pray while he is near:
And you will be cared for when the “waters rise” When the tough times come...
Doesn't say you won't have them...Just that he will make sure you are OK!
Is 55:6 “*Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.*”
- Protect you from trouble:
Lit = *to stand guard, to preserve, to protect, to guard me with songs of deliverance*
Whatever comes my way you will speak words of PROTECTION over me!
Illus: Imagine the one who spoke the universe into existence saying: Leave her alone...she is mine!
- God will teach us the right way forward
Lit = Instruct: *to direct you to be smart and have success (going to make you smarter than you are!)*
Teach: *to aim you in the right path (water in river, arrow toward mark)*
Counsel: *I will advise and guide you, looking with my eyes...and say...this way!*
YOU may not know the next right thing...But GOD surely does!
Illus: The Thai divers...charting a path...for the boys to find way out
- Surround us w his love: Imagine...there is NOTHING that comes your way as a child of God that does not first Pass through his hands of love: You may not know it, understand it, recognize it, like it But before you ever experience it...it FIRST passes through the filter of His Love!!!

CONCL:

This way of dealing with our sin...and finding the forgiveness of God goes all the way back to the very FIRST sin In the Garden; You know the story:

Genesis 3:6-10

God came down in the cool of the evening...

I was afraid...and I Hid!

Afraid: Fearful of who you are and how you might respond to my sin

Hid: Lit = To go in secret...to keep it from being seen

How silly. To think that we can hide from God

When we do that...we suffer...Our bones ache, our heart breaks, our sin rules in our life

BUT

When we confess, and acknowledge...God forgives and restores

Where/What are you hiding? The only one that is being fooled...is YOU

1Jn 1:9 “If we confess our sin He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness”

If there is something you need to confess today...take this opportunity

Good News: There is NO ONE in the room...that is exempt...We all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God
The only difference is...

Some Hide it...and Refuse to Acknowledge it.

Others...Find Forgiveness: What Will You Do?