

God's Gift of Repentance

Two Prodigal Sons

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Two Prodigal Sons — Prodigal King David / The Prodigal Son

their stories overlap — one Old Testament — one New Testament

- **Psalm 32:1-2**

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

- the word blessed is in the plural, “**blessednesses**,” the multiple joys, the piles of happiness, the treasures of riches; for the forgiven, covered, and unimputed!
- notice — “blessednesses” **aren’t for the perfect**, the law keeper—but for the imperfect, the law breaker, one who has been forgiven—who simply responds to God on God’s terms.

Observe the three words that describe sin, and three words that represent God’s pardon...

- weigh them, consider them, own them; *Selah* means “stop and think about what you just read”
- **transgression**= rebellion; **forgiven**= lifts, carries off, eases
- **sin**= offence; **covered**= concealed, hidden, clothed
- **iniquity**= perversity, deliberate desire; **not imputed**= considered, counted

“Transgression, sin, and iniquity, are the three-headed dog at the gates of hell,
but our glorious Lord has silenced its barkings for ever against his own believing ones.
The trinity of sin is overcome by the Trinity of heaven.”¹

C.H. Spurgeon

Key to this forgiveness— **no deceit**- no trickery, no games, no manipulation... “give me your heart...”

- **2 Corinthians 7:10**

For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

Listen— godly sorrow is being sorry you hurt God and others—it produces repentance and leads to salvation... worldly sorrow is only being sorry you got caught, and produces death!

Prodigal David

- **Psalm 32:3-4**

When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night
Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. *Selah*

FACT — when we keep silent from confessing sin, that sin becomes an internal poison, drying the

¹ Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Spurgeon on the Psalms Book Two* (Bridge Logos, Inc, May 5, 2015) 86

fountain of life within us. Our vitality turns to drought!

Enter the Prodigal Son

- took father's inheritance, wasted it all on partying and sinning
- **Luke 15:14-16**
But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.
- He's broke, hungry, humiliated... and unrepentant, **silent** from confessing sin—the heavy hand of a loving Father is upon him—in *hopes of turning him homeward...*

Back to Psalm 32 — Prodigal David

- comes to senses, silence and distance is killing him...
- **Psalm 32:5**
I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. **Selah**
- we must all go from groaning in our silence to owning our sin, call it what it is!
- we must all go from silence to repentance, distance to nearness, so forgiveness can happen!

Back to Prodigal Son

- broken and silent last time we saw him...
- **Luke 15:17-19**
"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."
• came to senses—owned his sin; went to father—no more distance; confessed—no more silence!

Back to Psalm 32 — Prodigal David

- **received forgiveness**, now encourages us to confess, and boasts of its blessing!
- **Psalm 32:6-7**
For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You in a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters they shall not come near him. You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. **Selah**

Listen—

- godly people confess and repent,
- godly people experience transgressions forgiven, sin covered, iniquity not imputed,
- godly people find security for their souls by hiding in God's presence,
- godly people are preserved from troubles of guilt, shame and fear,
- godly people are surrounded with songs of deliverance!
- Confessing and repenting activates the **blessednesses** of God, and breaks the power of the enemy!

Back to Prodigal Son

- **he's coming home...**
- **Luke 15:20-24**
 “And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ “But the father said to his servants, ‘bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry (with music, singing and dancing).”

Application — *confession and repentance lead to forgiveness, lifting and easing of past rebellion; covering and clothing of sin with best robe; unimputed, unconsidered iniquity, the Father doesn't even acknowledge confession; make merry, **songs of deliverance!***

God speaks

- **Back to Psalm 32**
- **Psalm 32:8-9**
 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding, which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, else they will not come near you.
- God wants to guide your life with His eye—face-to-face intimacy!
- Don't make Him drag you to Himself—no heavy hand of God, guiding eye of God instead!

Closing

- **Psalm 32:10-11**
 Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; But he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous; And shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Fact— if you'll trust God's forgiveness for every type of sin you commit, without deceit in your heart, mercy shall surround you, it will cause you to rejoice and shout for joy—trust God today!

Question — Do you need to confess your sin and repent today?

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think the word “repent” has gotten a bad rap?
2. What does it mean to experience the joy of repentance?
3. What kinds of transgressions (rebellions) do we as “good Christians” commit against God?
4. Have you ever experienced being in a state of conscious unrepentance?
What did it feel like?
5. What did it take to bring you to the point of asking for forgiveness?
6. How did the forgiveness of God make you feel?
7. Do you need to confess your sin and repent today?