

“Tasting Forgiveness”

Psalm 32 (ESV)

¹Blessed 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. “

Transgression = “pesha” = a **rebellion** or breach in a relationship. We either cover-up or God carries the rebellion. (see Genesis 32)

Sin = “hata” = **failure** to achieve a target. We either make excuses or God covers over our failure/shortcomings (see Exodus 32).

Iniquity = “awôn” = **waywardness** as deliberate disobedience or evil. We either play dumb or God declines to count/credit us for the evil/wrong. (see Genesis 4, Leviticus 16:21, Exodus 34:6-7)

³For 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.”

The road called **deception** is a wasteland with pit stops called cynicism, hopelessness and shame. The on-ramp is silence and it dead ends in **guilt**.

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.”

1. We should acknowledge rebellion; God will **carry** it.
2. We should not cover the wrongdoing; God will **cover** it.
3. We should confess; God will **count** us not guilty.

“The pardon of God is the first and principal basis of the life of the people of God. It is the free favour of God by which he reconciles us to himself.”
- John Calvin

⁶Therefore 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. ⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. ⁹ Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you. ¹⁰ Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD. ¹¹ Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!”

When we make a commitment to God it opens us up to the commitment of God. This comes through either the noise of **confession** or the noise of **praise**.

Small Group Questions

1. When was the first time in your life that you really understood what sin was? Define it.
2. Of the three words that define sin that we discussed, which one is the biggest struggle for you?
3. Are you in a wasteland right now? Is there a circumstance of life that has you walking in cynicism, hopelessness, shame or even guilt?
4. How does the work of Jesus Christ meet us in our rebellion, failure and waywardness? What is the exchange that we can receive as a free gift from him? (hint: three c’s) How have you seen these play out in your life?
5. We talked about two “noises” that we need to make: the noise of confession and the noise of praise. Which one do you need more in your life?

Recommended Reading:

Eugene H. Peterson, *Leap Over a Wall—Earthly Spirituality for Everyday Christians*. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1997.

Tremper Longman, *How to Read the Psalms*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1988.