

Sermon-Based Questions
June 23, 2019
Dave Gustavsen

Conviction
Psalm 32

Introduction (choose 1):

1. Summer is finally here. Share some of your plans for this summer.
2. Pastor Dave talks about how our culture is becoming “more secular and less religious” but the problem is that people still feel guilty, so now they don’t know what to do with that guilt.
 - Do you agree or disagree?
 - Have you experienced this or seen examples of this with people you know or in the broader culture? Share your thoughts.
 - Give some examples of how you have seen others try to deal with their guilt outside of religion?

Understanding (choose 4-6):

3. *Read Psalm 32 as a group.*
 - What is your reaction to this psalm?
 - How does it make you feel?
4. Pastor Dave points out how Psalm 32 is most likely about King David’s actions with Bathsheba and Uriah.
 - In 2 Samuel 12 we read about the Lord sending the prophet Nathan to rebuke David.
 - *Read 2 Samuel 12:1-23.*
 - What connections do you see between this passage and some of the things that David writes in Psalm 32?
 - How do you think David felt when he learned that the story of the rich man was about him?
5. We instinctively want to cover up our wrongdoings like David did, so we keep quiet or we try to hide it.
 - Share a time when you tried to cover up something that you did wrong and it only made it worse. Would it have been better to have admitted your sin right away? Why didn’t you?
 - Why do we have the instinct to cover up?
6. *Read Psalm 32:3-4.*
 - How did David feel when he tried to remain quiet?
 - David writes that God’s “hand was heavy on me.” Do you feel God’s hand heavy on your when you try to cover up? If not, why do you think that is?
7. *Read Psalm 32:1-2.*
 - What do you notice in each of these lines? Take one line at a time.
 - “...whose transgressions are forgiven”
 - “...whose sins are covered.”
 - “...whose sin the Lord does not count against them...”

8. Why does God forgive us when we sin and not count it against us?
9. *Read Psalm 32:8-9.*
 - What are 3 things that God will do to help us avoid revisiting sin?
 - Are you being instructed by God?
 - If yes: Share some examples of how you are instructed by God.
 - If no: What do you think the reason is that you don't feel like you are being instructed by God? What can you do to change that?

Application:

10. How can you begin to resist the urge to cover up when you do something wrong, and instead, admit your sin and ask for forgiveness?
 - What are some practical steps that you can take to help you overcome this urge?
 - How does your mindset need to change to get better at this?
 - How does Jesus fit into this?
11. How can the small group help each other get better at coming clean instead of covering up?
12. During prayer time, take a few minutes to pray silently and confess your sins to God. Close the prayer time by asking God to remove your pride, and trust in Him. Know that He loves you, and promises to forgive you.

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Lectio Divina

1. **Opening Prayer:** Ask God for insight into His Word, for open hearts and minds, for hunger to know Him better, and for an attitude of learning from one another.
2. **Reading:** Have someone from your group read the passage aloud. It is best to print out a copy for each group member so they can read along, make notes, or go back as needed.
3. **Meditation:** Spend *an entire minute in complete silence*, contemplating what was just read. Feel free to re-read the passage quietly to yourself or jot down thoughts/highlight what stuck out to you.
4. **Sharing:** At the leader's signal, invite group members to share their insights for about 5 minutes.
5. **Repeat:** After the 5 minutes are over, repeat the process 2 more times using the same passage. Listen/read like you haven't heard this passage before. If there are longer moments of silence, the leader can prompt discussion with the following questions:
 1. What did you hear and what seems important?
 2. What is the Holy Spirit impressing on you?
 3. What does it make you think of from your life?

¹ Blessed is the one
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

² Blessed is the one
whose sin the LORD does not count against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.

³ When I kept silent,
my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

⁴ For day and night
your hand was heavy on me;
my strength was sapped
as in the heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, "I will confess
my transgressions to the LORD."

And you forgave
the guilt of my sin.

-Psalm 32:1-5

⁶ Therefore let all the faithful pray to you
while you may be found;
surely the rising of the mighty waters
will not reach them.

⁷ You are my hiding place;
you will protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of deliverance.

⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

⁹ Do not be like the horse or the mule,
which have no understanding
but must be controlled by bit and bridle
or they will not come to you.

¹⁰ Many are the woes of the wicked,
but the LORD's unfailing love
surrounds the one who trusts in him.

¹¹ Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous;
sing, all you who are upright in heart!

-Psalm 32:6-11

The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. ²The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, ³but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

⁴“Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”

⁵David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die! ⁶He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

⁷Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. ⁹Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’

¹¹“This is what the LORD says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. ¹²You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’”

¹³Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”

Nathan replied, “The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. ¹⁴But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for^[a] the LORD, the son born to you will die.”