

Week of August 2, 2021: Psalm 32



Discussion Questions Set #1

“Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.” (Psalm 32:1-2)

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.” (Matthew 5:1-11)

Psalm 32 seems to indicate that blessedness has very little to do with one's strivings, character or accomplishments and far more to do with God's generous mercy and grace.

1. Why do you think we often view blessedness as a reward or a result of righteous works in our world?
2. Why do you think “health and wealth” type concepts seem to dominate our cultural understanding of blessedness? Why do you think this might also form a current within modern Christianity?
3. Understanding blessedness from a biblical perspective as a profound spiritual reality related to a joyful, immediate relatedness to God helps us reorient our perspective. As you think about this, what do you think are appropriate markers of blessedness for the follower of Jesus? If health, wealth, power and prestige are not perfect indicators of blessedness, what kinds of things ought we be looking for in our following of Jesus to gauge our blessedness?

Discussion Questions Set

“When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. 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 32:3-5)

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other.” (James 5:16)

As mentioned in sermon, confession is one of those topics in the Christian world that seems to often be poorly managed. We often see an overemphasis on the practice – Roman Catholicism – or a significant under emphasis – most of Protestantism.

1. What has been your personal experience of confession within the life of the church?
2. Why might an over emphasis on confession be harmful in one's following of Jesus?
3. Why is a lack of confession harmful to us in terms of our following of Jesus?
4. Discuss the place of confession within a process of forgiveness:



5. Why do you think that James urges confession to one another within the church? What functions do corporate confession play in the life of God's people?

Discussion Questions Set #3

“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” (Psalm 32:9).

1. What might an unwillingness to confess according to the above verse suggest about our attitude?
2. In sermon, it was suggested that a lack of confession is rooted in pride, but can also involve issues of embarrassment, ignorance, or defiance. Discuss how these serve as barriers to confession.
3. How might we overcome such barriers individually and corporately? What practical steps might be taken?