

GAME OF THRONES

THE REIGN OF DAVID

The Joy of Confession and Forgiveness

Key idea:

Psalm 32 proclaims the joy of total forgiveness by God that awaits those who confess their sins and turn to Christ in faith.

Key text:

Psalm 32

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.² Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him 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 upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. *Selah*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. *Selah*⁶ Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found; surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him.⁷ You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. *Selah*⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over 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 man who trusts in him.¹¹ Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!

Key points:

1. Psalm 32 describes the joy that is experienced as we confess our sins and receive God’s full forgiveness.
2. There is no greater blessing and joy in life than knowing our sins are forgiven by God and we are given the righteousness of Christ!
3. Unconfessed sin leads to spiritual stress, which can have devastating emotional and physical effects.
4. If we confess our sins to God instead of hiding, He becomes our refuge in times of trouble.

5. The child of God should have close, daily communion with God, pouring out our hearts to Him, confessing our sins, and receiving His words of assurance and guidance.
6. If we trust in Christ, openly confessing our sin and looking to Him for mercy, we are surrounded by His unfailing love everywhere we turn.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Why is the experience of being forgiven by God such a source of blessing and joy?
3. How do you see Christ and the Gospel in Psalm 32? Why does Paul quote it in Romans 4:6-8?
4. Why does David call a lack of confession of sin "deceit"? What is the outcome that he describes in verses 3-4 arising from such deceit? Have you ever experienced physical effects from spiritual hiding from God?
5. Why does the confession of our sins to God bring such relief and joy?
6. Why does David use the metaphor of God being our hiding place? How is this the opposite of how we view God when we refuse to confess sin?
7. How is the metaphor of a stubborn horse or mule (v9) related to the theme of the Psalm? How does God want you to respond to Him? What metaphors would be a good picture of the type of relationship God wants with you?
8. What are the differences between the wicked and the righteous in verses 10-11? How is trusting in the Lord related to the confession of sin, and the joy of forgiveness?
9. Is your joy anchored in your status as a child of God, forgiven of all your sins, or in your external circumstances? Which of these is your current experience?
10. Can you think of someone with whom you can share what you have learned this week? Pray for them and ask God to open a door for you to share His Word this week.

Preview of next week:

Title: Amnon, Tamar, and Absalom

Text: 2 Samuel 13