

Psalm 32 - Mourning Over Our Sin Pt. 2

November 24, 2019

Psalm 32:1-5 ESV A Maskil of David.

- 1 Blessed 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.
- 3 For 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. Selah
- 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. Selah

Psalm 38:3-8 ESV

- 3 There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin.
- 4 For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me.
- 5 My wounds stink and fester because of my foolishness,
- 6 I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning.
- 7 For my sides are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh.
- 8 I am feeble and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart.

Matthew 5:3-4 ESV

- 3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

poor (ptōchos - from "ptosso to crouch or cringe - reduced to begging, destitute of wealth, influence, position and honor, helpless, powerless, destitute of Christian virtues)

- 4 Blessed are those who mourn (pentheō - lament, wail, grieve), for they shall be comforted.

Romans 7:22-24 ESV

- 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,
- 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.
- 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

Romans 8:22-23 ESV

- 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.
- 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

"Conviction is given to us as a gift of shame and repentance; it is the great mercy of God."

—Oswald Chambers, It is Finished, My Upmost for His Highest

2 Corinthians 7:10-11 ESV

10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

11 For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.

James 4:8-10 ESV

8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

"A spiritual experience which is thoroughly flavoured with a deep and bitter sense of sin is of great value to him that hath it. It is terrible in the drinking, but it is most wholesome in the bowels, and in the whole of the after life." —Charles Spurgeon, *Spurgeon: A Biography*, Arnold A. Dallimore, p.14

"The believer is a new creature, he belongs to a holy generation and a peculiar people—the Spirit of God is in him, and in all respects he is far removed from the natural man; but for all that the Christian is a sinner still. He is so from the imperfection of his nature, and will continue so to the end of his earthly life. The black fingers of sin leave smuts upon our fairest robes. Sin mars our repentance, ere the great Potter has finished it, upon the wheel. Selfishness defiles our tears, and unbelief tampers with our faith...The prayer which moves the arm of God is still a bruised and battered prayer, and only moves that arm because the sinless One, the great Mediator, has stepped in to take away the sin of our supplication."

—Charles Spurgeon, "We Are All As An Unclean Thing," Evening Reading, Oct 27

Why don't (American) Christians experience this depth of repentance today?

1. **Failure to connect the suffering of the Cross to our sin** (and being unable to relate to such suffering).

1 Peter 2:24 ESV

24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Isaiah 53:5-6 ESV

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

"Jesus Christ hates the sin in people, and Calvary is the measure of His hatred."

—Oswald Chambers, *It is Finished, My Upmost for His Highest*

2. Neglecting God's Presence

- *Our faith grows, matures and hardens into conviction in God's presence. Faith withers and dies outside of God's presence.*
- *If you know God to any degree, then you will have an internal sense, a knowing within, that he is pure and you are not.*
- *The more you grow an intimacy with Him, the more you mourn over that impurities that still remain within.*

Hebrews 11:1-3 ESV

1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2 For by it the people of old received their commendation.

3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Isaiah 6:1-7 ESV

1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.

2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

3 And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.

5 And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar.

7 And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

3. Repenting for what we do instead of who we are. (Judging ourselves by outward performance and neglecting our heart condition.)

"Much of our problem in continuing fellowship with a holy God is that many Christians repent only for what they do, rather than for what they are." —A.W. Tozer, "Whatever Happened to Worship?"

- *When we view sin only as an action or deed, there can be a disassociation with that deed, such as, "I did something wrong but I'm still a good person." This leaves a lingering stronghold of self-righteousness, self-reliance and self-deception.*
- *When we understand that the external action originates internally in the heart and mind, then we realize that that sin is within my flesh, and without Jesus' Lordship I am capable and prone to that and worse. This realization creates a desperate dependency on Christ living in me hour by hour, day by day. "Blessed are the poor in spirit..."*

Luke 18:10-14 ESV

10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'

13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Matthew 19:16-22 ESV

16 And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?"

17 And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments."

18 He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness,

19 Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

20 The young man said to him, "All these I have kept. What do I still lack?"

21 Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

22 When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

"Beware of no man more than yourself; we carry our worst enemies within us."

—Charles H. Spurgeon

"I am more afraid of my own heart than of the pope and all his cardinals. I have within me the great pope, Self."

—Martin Luther

4. **We have worldly sorrow instead of godly sorrow** (*sorry for the consequences more than the offense to God's heart*).

2 Corinthians 7:10-11 ESV

10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

"Many think they repent when it is not the offense but the penalty that troubles them."

—Thomas Watson, (c. 1620 – 1686) Puritan preacher, author

2 Samuel 12:13 ESV

13 David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.