

Calvary Chapel Portsmouth



*Simply teaching the Bible, simply*

# A Blessed Life

## Psalm 32



# 'Oh bless me indeed'

<sup>10</sup> And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless **me** indeed, and enlarge **my** coast, and that thine hand might be with **me**, and that thou wouldest keep **me** from evil, that it may not grieve **me**! And God granted him that which he requested.

**1 Chronicles 4:10**

- A formula for blessing?
- A recipe for disaster?

# Previous Session

- Psalm 1
- 'Blessed is the man...'
- Walks not in the council of the ungodly
- Nor stands in the way with sinners
- Nor sits with the scornful
- Delights in the Law of the LORD
- Meditates in it
- Day and night

# Psalm 32

- 2<sup>nd</sup> (of 8) of the 'Blessed' Psalms
  - 1, 32, 34, 41, 65, 84, 94, 112,
- It has to follow Psalm 1
  - Lessons of Psalm 1 have got to be learned before graduating to Psalm 32
- The greatest of all blessings?
- 'Maschil' – a Psalm of instruction
  - From one who has been there
- *'Don't let the lessons be wasted'*



# The Blessed Life

Psalm 32:1-11

— A Psalm of David, Maschill —

- 1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
- 2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.
- 3 When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.
- 4 For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

**Psalm 32:1-11**

<sup>5</sup> I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

**Psalm 32:1-11**

<sup>6</sup> For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.

<sup>7</sup> Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

**Psalm 32:1-11**



- 8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.
- 9 Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.
- 10 Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about.
- 11 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

**Psalm 32:1-11**

— A Psalm of David, Maschill —

**Psalm 32:1-11**

# Maschil

- A Psalm of instruction (13x)
  - 32, 42, 44, 45, 52, 53, 54, 55, 74, 78, 88, 89, 142;
- ‘Didactic’
  - *Morally instructive, a moral message to which aesthetic considerations are subordinated*
- Chronologically follows Psalm 51

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.

**2 Sam 11:1-12:13**

<sup>3</sup> And David sent and inquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bath-sheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

<sup>4</sup> And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

<sup>5</sup> And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child.

**2 Sam 11:1-12:13**

<sup>6</sup> And David sent to Joab, saying, Send me Uriah the Hittite. And Joab sent Uriah to David.

<sup>7</sup> And when Uriah was come unto him, David demanded of him how Joab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered.

<sup>8</sup> And David said to Uriah, Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet. And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess of meat from the king.

**2 Sam 11:1-12:13**

<sup>9</sup> But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house.

<sup>10</sup> And when they had told David, saying, Uriah went not down unto his house, David said unto Uriah, Camest thou not from thy journey? why then didst thou not go down unto thine house?

**2 Sam 11:1-12:13**

**11** And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing.

**12** And David said to Uriah, Tarry here to day also, and to morrow I will let thee depart. So Uriah abode in Jerusalem that day, and the morrow.

**2 Sam 11:1-12:13**



<sup>13</sup> And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk: and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house.

<sup>14</sup> And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah.

<sup>15</sup> And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die.

**2 Sam 11:1-12:13**

16 And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men were.

17 And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell some of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

18 Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war;

**2 Sam 11:1-12:13**

19 And charged the messenger, saying, When thou hast made an end of telling the matters of the war unto the king,

20 And if so be that the king's wrath arise, and he say unto thee, Wherefore approached ye so nigh unto the city when ye did fight? knew ye not that they would shoot from the wall?

21 Who smote Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? did not a woman cast a piece of a millstone upon him from the wall, that he died in Thebez? why went ye nigh the wall? then say thou, Thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.

22 So the messenger went, and came and shewed David all that Joab had sent him for.

23 And the messenger said unto David, Surely the men prevailed against us, and came out unto us into the field, and we were upon them even unto the entering of the gate.

24 And the shooters shot from off the wall upon thy servants; and some of the king's servants be dead, and thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.

**2 Sam 11:1-12:13**

25 Then David said unto the messenger, Thus shalt thou say unto Joab, Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devoureth one as well as another: make thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it: and encourage thou him.

26 And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.

**2 Sam 11:1-12:13**

27 And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

**2 Sam 11:1-12:13**

12:1 And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.

2 The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds:

3 But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.

**2 Sam 11:1-12:13**

<sup>4</sup> And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.

<sup>5</sup> And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die:

**2 Sam 11:1-12:13**



<sup>6</sup> And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

<sup>7</sup> And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;

<sup>8</sup> And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.

<sup>9</sup> Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

<sup>10</sup> Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.

**2 Sam 11:1-12:13**

11 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.

12 For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

**2 Sam 11:1-12:13**

<sup>1</sup> Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Psalm 32:1

- *“He is now blessed and ever shall be. Be he ever so poor, or sick, or sorrowful, he is blessed in very deed” CHS*
- *“Blessedness is not in this case ascribed to the man who has been a diligent law-keeper for then it would never come to us; but rather to a law-breaker, who by grace most rich and free has been forgiven” CHS*

# Paul's Quotation

<sup>5</sup> But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth **the ungodly**, his faith is counted for righteousness.

<sup>6</sup> Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,

<sup>7</sup> Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

<sup>8</sup> Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

Romans 4:5-8

# Forgiven

- Forgiven: נשא 'Nawsaw'
- 'Taken off', 'taken away' as a burden that is lifted, or a barrier that has been removed
- The dilemma of God's righteousness & mercy
- *'It may be that Deity can forgive sin, but I don't see how'* (Socrates)

# Justice & Mercy

<sup>4</sup> Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup> But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**Isaiah 53:4-6**

# Justice & Mercy

<sup>10</sup> Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

**Isaiah 53:10**



# Justice & Mercy

<sup>9</sup> Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land.

<sup>10</sup> Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup> Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

**Psalm 85:9-11**

<sup>1</sup> Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Psalm 32:1

- *“What a cover must that be that which hides away forever from the sight of the all seeing God all the filthiness of the flesh and of the spirit” CHS*
- *“He who has once seen sin in all its horrible deformity, will appreciate the happiness of seeing it no more for ever” CHS*

# Covered

- Covered: כָּסָה 'Kawsaw'
- Cover, Flee to, Hide, Overwhelm
- As far as the east is from the west! (Ps103:12)
- We can know we are pardoned
  - *Where would be the blessedness of an unknown forgiveness?* (CHS)
- In contrast to our attempt to cover our sin:

# Attempted Cover Up

<sup>8</sup> And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

<sup>9</sup> And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

<sup>10</sup> And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

**Genesis 3:8-10**

# Attempted Cover Up

<sup>8</sup> And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

<sup>9</sup> And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

**Genesis 4:8-9**

# Attempted Cover Up

<sup>25</sup> But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence comest thou, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither.

**2 Kings 5:25**

# Covered

- God's covering is complete and permanent
  - Leading to peace and joy
- Our 'covering' is temporary
  - Leading to the results detailed in v.3-4

# Making a Clean Break

<sup>6</sup> For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

<sup>7</sup> For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

James 1:6-7



# Making a Clean Break

<sup>21</sup> What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

Romans 6:21

2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

Psalm 32:2

- ‘Blessed’ אֲשֶׁרִי ‘*esher*’ - plural  
- *‘Blessings are unto whom...’*
- Impossible to number them, and the way my life is enriched because of them

# Innumerable

<sup>5</sup> Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

**Psalm 40:5**

2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

Psalm 32:2

- Pardon from man is gratefully received...
- But this pardon is from the LORD Himself
- Iniquity – completes our rebellious trinity:
  - transgression = crossing the line
  - sin = missing the mark
  - iniquity = to twist, bend, make crooked  
(in regard to human nature)

2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

Psalm 32:2

- The spotlight is on our innermost self
- The issue is one of deceit caused by our crooked nature
- David was full of this guile
  - Toward Uriah
  - Toward Bathsheba
  - Toward Israel
  - Toward himself

3 When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.

4 For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

Psalm 32:3-4

- The desperate plight of un-confessed and /or un-dealt-with sin
- David speaks from personal experience
- *“When through neglect I failed to confess, or through despair dared not to do so” CHS*

# The Cause

- David's catastrophic error
  - 'kept silence'
- Keep the lines of communication open!
- During wartime the enemy seeks to cut of the lines of communication.
- When did the LORD reach out to you?
- While you were dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1)

# Nature of Reality

- 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9



# The Emptiness of Silence

<sup>18</sup> If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

**Psalm 66:18**

<sup>3</sup> When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.

<sup>4</sup> For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

**Psalm 32:3-4**

## Symptoms

- The Physical effect
- No peace
- Weight of burden (day & night)
- Vitality dries up

<sup>3</sup> When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.

<sup>4</sup> For **day and night** thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

**Psalm 32:3-4**

- *“While we smother our sin it rages within, and like a gathering wound it swells horribly and torments terribly”*

*CHS*

<sup>5</sup> I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

Psalm 32:5

- God's kindness leads us to repentance
  - Romans 2:4
- David finally meets his rebellion head on:
  - A long time could have passed from the Palace roof to Nathan's visit
- How awesome the result!

6 For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.

Psalm 32:6

- *'For this'?*
  - David's testimony?
  - God's mercy?
- *"He who is saved from sin has no need to fear anything else" CHS*

7 Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

Psalm 32:7

- God is no longer to be feared as Judge,
- But embraced as Saviour & Redeemer
- *“Observe that the same man who in the 4<sup>th</sup> verse was oppressed by the presence of God, here finds a shelter in Him” CHS*
- The blessings are beyond anything we can imagine.

- God now speaks...

8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

**Psalm 32:8**

- The one who had gone astray, in rebellion against his Creator...
- Now is to be instructed by Him!
- He will guide our steps (cf Psalm 37:23)
  - In the workplace / in our finances / in our relationships

- God now speaks...

9 Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.\*

**Psalm 32:9**

- God is presenting the ideal...
- Not necessarily the actual (cf. Jonah!)
- Sanctification > Abundant life



# The Love of the Father

<sup>6</sup> Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, **if need be,** ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

<sup>7</sup> That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 1:6-7

# Above The Circumstances

- 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)
- 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Ephesians 2:5-6

- David concludes:


<sup>10</sup> Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about.

**Psalm 32:10**

- How often we partake of sorrows that are not befitting children of the King!

<sup>11</sup> Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

**Psalm 32:11**



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