

Belovedness

God's Redemptive Story thru David--part 2

January 17, 2016

DAY 1: "Getting what he wanted," but losing what he needed.

1. David's life begins to unravel after Nathan confronts him with his sin of adultery and murder.
2. For about one year, David attempts to live with a cover-up. He has Uriah killed in battle, and then marries Uriah's widow, Bathsheba. Bathsheba delivers a baby that perhaps no one suspects is David's. Only Joab, the general, knows that David had Uriah killed.
3. It appears that King David "got the girl," and "no one" really knew. He was home "scot-free." But something else was going on inside David.

Psalms 32:1 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

4. Though David "got what he wanted," it came at an awful price! What did David report was going on inside him during this year?

5. Did "getting what he wanted" make him happy?

6. What made him happier?

7. "Blessed" means "at peace," or "all is well."

8. In what ways do you relate to Psalm 32:1-4?

DAY 2: Discovering the richness of God's love through the failure of his own character.

1. Amazingly, for almost a year, David lived with a growing sense of misery, as we saw in Psalm 32:1-4. What would jar him out of his cover-up and deception? By the time God sent Nathan the prophet to confront David, the king's misery was growing darker, and his groaning was deepening.

2. Two powerful forces were competing against each other inside David.

a. David's commitment to his own happiness as highest priority.

b. The consequences, both internal and external that are bringing growing misery to David.

3. When Nathan confronts him, David's soul is finally "done" with the charade, the cover-up, the pretense and inner misery.

4. To his immense surprise, David discovers the wonders and deepness of God's covenant love, and he discovers it in the most astounding way--through his own failure and sin!

Psalm 32:5 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

5. What strikes you from Psalm 32:5-7?

6. There is something deeper than his own sin--it is God's mercy. There is something richer than his own poverty of character--the richness of God's acceptance. There is something more wondrous and joy-inducing than anything "left on the table" from his previous follies--It is that God is not "done" with David.

7. Have you ever wondered if God is "done" with you?

8. How does David's discovery of the richness of God encourage you?

DAY 3: Joy is rooted in God's attitude toward us: we are His beloved!

1. After David discovers the wonders of God's mercy and steadfast love *through* the catastrophe of his own foolishness and sin, God speaks to David.

Psalm 32:8 "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!*

2. How would verse 8 be an encouragement to you, especially after you had stubbornly pursued your own course of action for over a year?

3. On what heart problem does God address in verse 9?

4. What strikes you about the imagery of verse 9? Jot down your thoughts next to the following:

a. Don't be like ... the mule -

b. "No understanding" -

c. "Must be controlled by bit" -

d. "They will not come to you" (God) -

5. Verse 10 describes the inevitable end results of the two roads Jesus described in the Sermon on the Mount--the wide road and the narrow road.

a. What are the inevitable results of wickedly pursuing our own happiness as top priority? (v. 10)

b. How is God's unfailing love experienced? (v. 10)

6. God then directs David to turn his hopes for joy toward God, and in his relationship with God.

DAY 4: Belovedness trumps brokenness

1. What traces of "belovedness" do you hear in David's confession of sin? Underline every word and phrase that points to the deepness of God's love which overcomes even our sin!

Psalms 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy steadfast love; according to thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

² *Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!*

³ *For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.*

⁴ *Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight, so that thou art justified in thy sentence and blameless in thy judgment.*

⁵ *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

⁶ *Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.*

⁷ *Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

⁸ *Fill me with joy and gladness; let the bones which thou hast broken rejoice.*

⁹ *Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.*

¹⁰ *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.*

¹¹ *Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy holy Spirit from me.*

¹² *Restore to me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.*

¹³ *Then I will teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners will return to thee.*

¹⁴ *Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of thy deliverance.*

¹⁵ *O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise.*

¹⁶ *For thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, thou wouldst not be pleased.*

¹⁷ *The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*

¹⁸ *Do good to Zion in thy good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,*

¹⁹ *then wilt thou delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on thy altar.*

2. The great paradox of confession is that the greater the ownership of our sin, the greater we are amazed at the wonder of God's love for us.

3. Unless... of course, we insist on stubbornly pursuing our own pleasure as top priority. Then God's love and mercy will only seem like a pleasantry or interesting idea.

DAY 5: Grace discovered in through the consequences of our sins

1. David was broken partly by Nathan's confrontation, set up by the growing sense of misery.
2. God promised David that his life would be spared in spite of his egregious sin against God, Uriah, Bathsheba, his family and nation.
3. But the consequences of David's sin would play out over his remaining years.

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

⁸ For he who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption; but he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

4. The consequences of our sins serve as a deepening lesson to others and to ourselves about the horrors of sin.
5. The consequences of our sins also drive us deeper to God, particularly when those consequences bring adversity and trouble on those we love.
6. The paradox of brokenness and belovedness is this. The more we embrace our brokenness without God, the deeper we are driven to God to discover how much we are His beloved!

Nehemiah 8:10 Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

7. The bottom line of being a Christian is not our performance, whether stellar or wretched. It is simply the wonder of God's grace, who takes us as His children in whom He delights!