



- Scripture Reading Luke 15: 11-24



- Job had a problem
  - blameless, upright, feared God and turned away from evil
  - suffering greatly



- Friends accuse him of sin
  - Zophar (not inspired)
    - Job 11:4-6 (ESV) 4 For you say, 'My doctrine is pure, and I am clean in God's eyes.' 5 But oh, that God would speak and open his lips to you, 6 and that he would tell you the secrets of wisdom! For he is manifold in understanding. Know then that God exacts of you less than your guilt deserves.





- Job knows that God knows
  - Job 31:4 (ESV) 4 Does not he see my ways and number all my steps?



Job

if I have concealed my transgressions as  
others do by hiding my iniquity in my heart

Job 31:33

- Others hide sin

- Job 31:33-34 (ESV) 33 if I have concealed my transgressions as others do by hiding my iniquity in my heart, 34 because I stood in great fear of the multitude, and the contempt of families terrified me, so that I kept silence, and did not go out of doors—

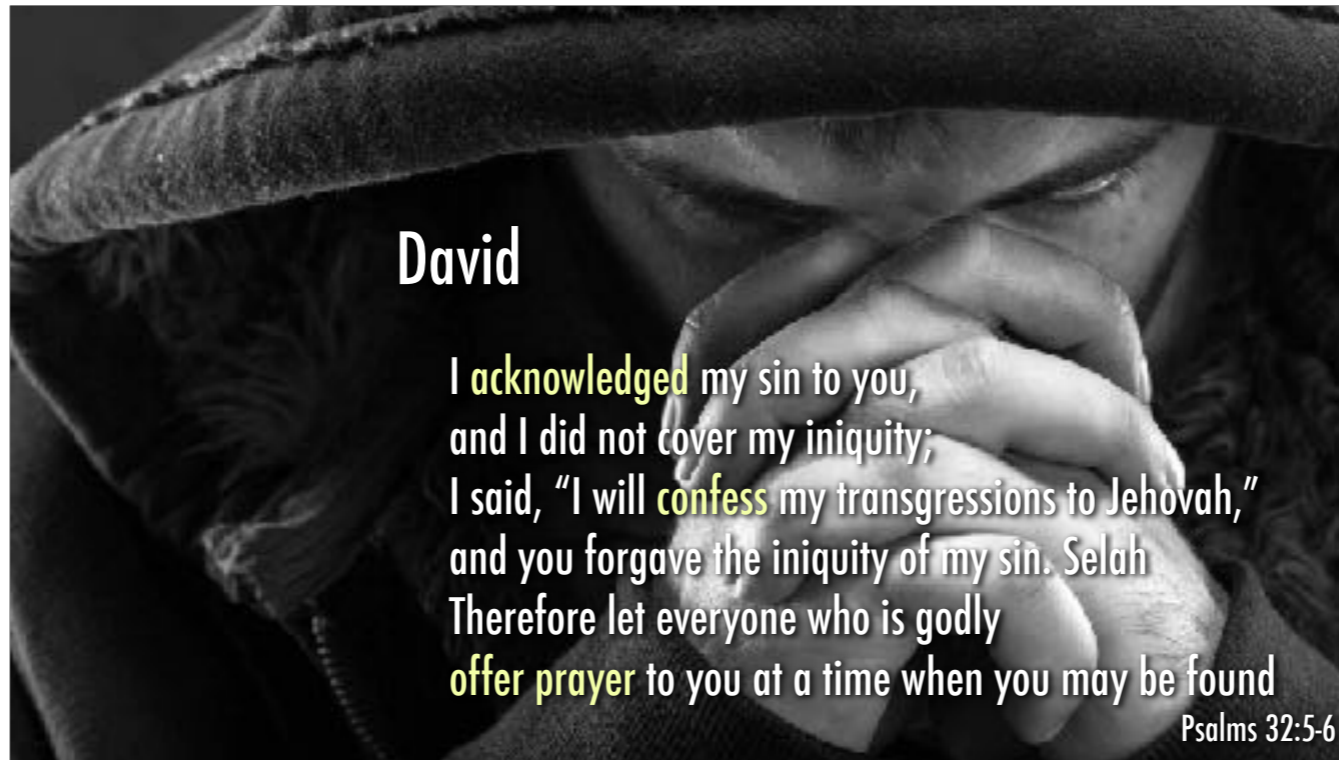




- Job wants to tell God everything
  - Job 31:37 (ESV) 37 I would give him an account of all my steps; like a prince I would approach him.



- Job
  - Never claimed that he didn't sin.
  - Rather that he didn't hide the sin from himself, nor from God.
- David had the opposite problem.
  - He had sinned
  - And he tried to hide the sin.
    - And he suffered.



## David

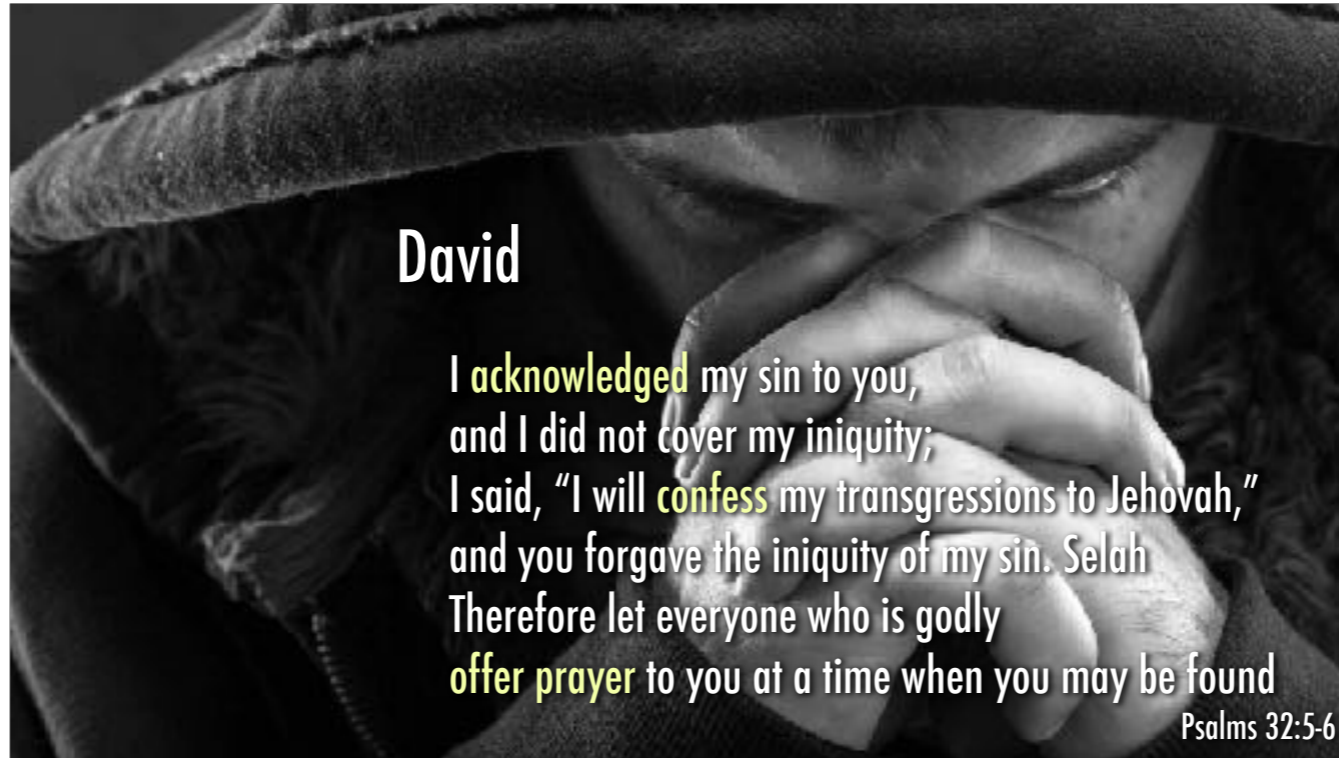
I **acknowledged** my sin to you,  
and I did not cover my iniquity;  
I said, "I will **confess** my transgressions to Jehovah,"  
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah  
Therefore let everyone who is godly  
**offer prayer** to you at a time when you may be found

Psalms 32:5-6

- Psalms 32:5-7

- 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
- 6 Therefore let everyone who is godly
- offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
- surely in the rush of great waters,
- they shall not reach him.
- 7 You are a hiding place for me;
- you preserve me from trouble;
- you surround me with shouts of deliverance. Selah



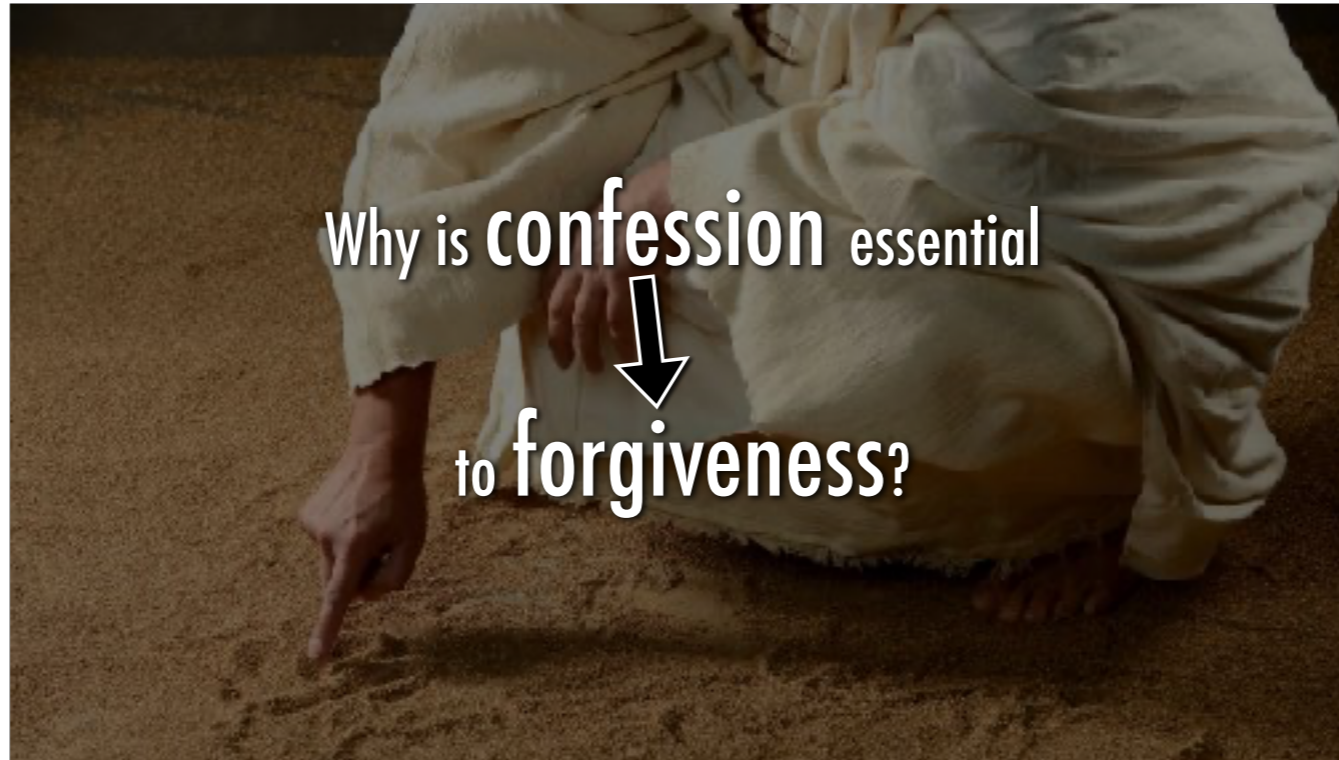


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Psalms 32:5-6

- When David was silent and hid sin: suffering
- When David acknowledged, confessed, and prayed: forgiveness

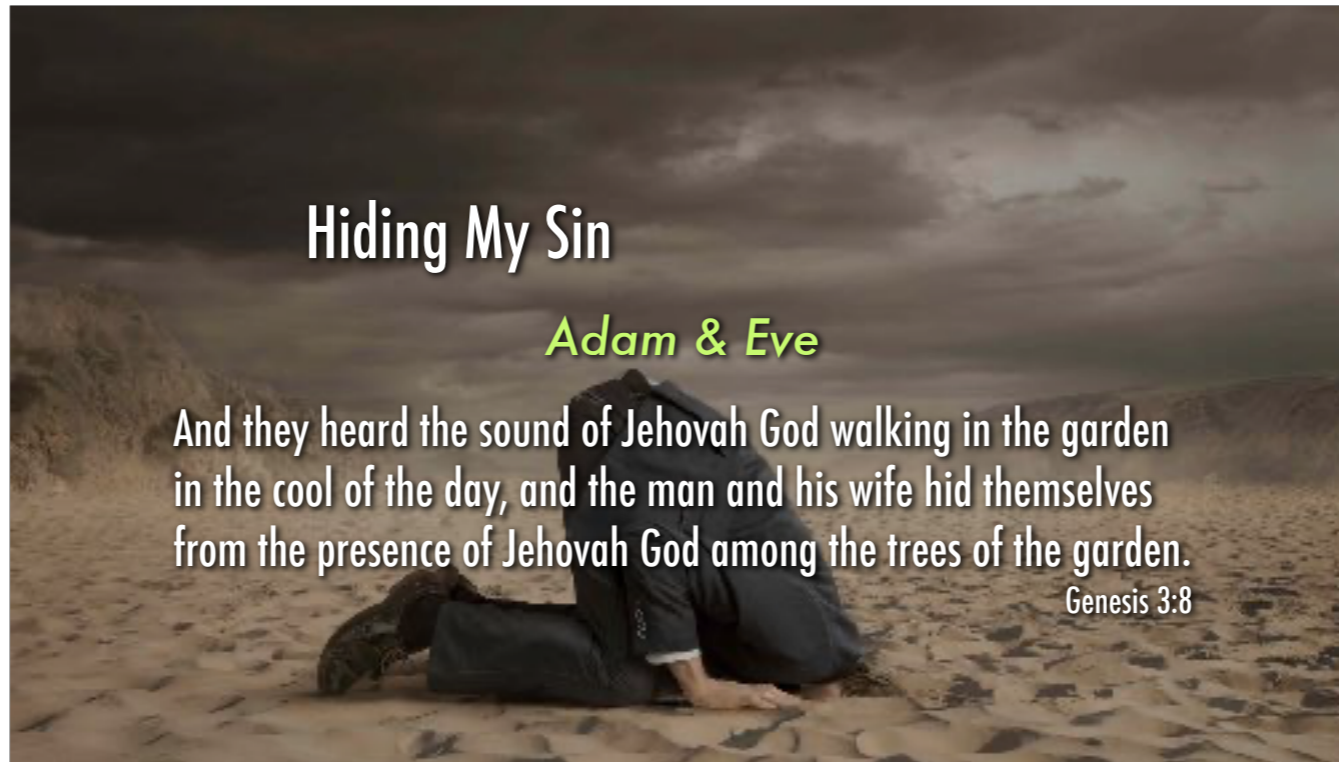


- Why is confession essential to forgiveness?
- Especially since our God knows of our sin?
  - Jeremiah 16:17 For my eyes are on all their ways. They are not hidden from me, nor is their iniquity concealed from my eyes.
  - Isaiah 29:15 Ah, you who hide deep from the LORD your counsel, whose deeds are in the dark, and who say, "Who sees us? Who knows us?"

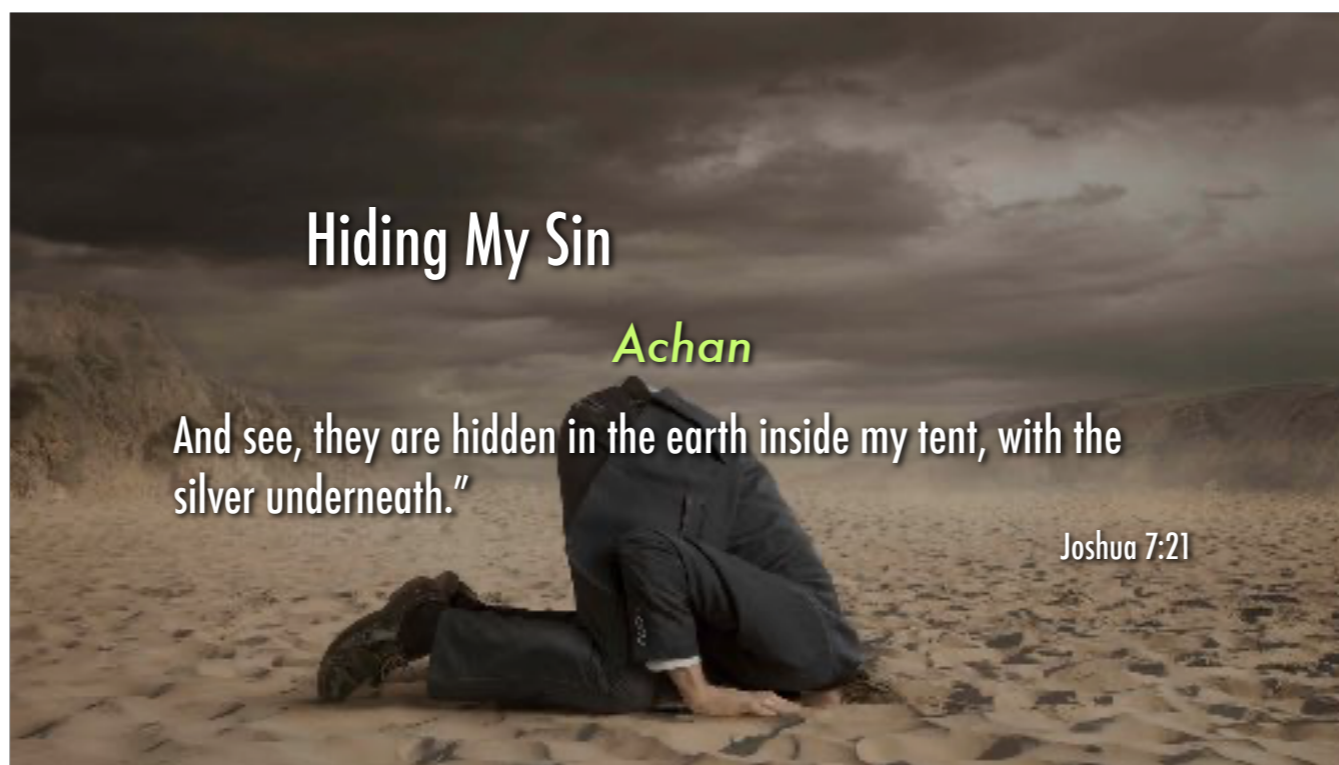


- Hiding My Sin
  - Why do we think we can hide ourselves and our sins from God?





- Genesis 3:8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.
- When God asked
  - Adam blamed the woman
  - Eve blamed the serpent



- Joshua 7:20-21 (ESV) 20 And Achan answered Joshua, “Truly I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I did: 21 when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath.”



## Hiding My Sin

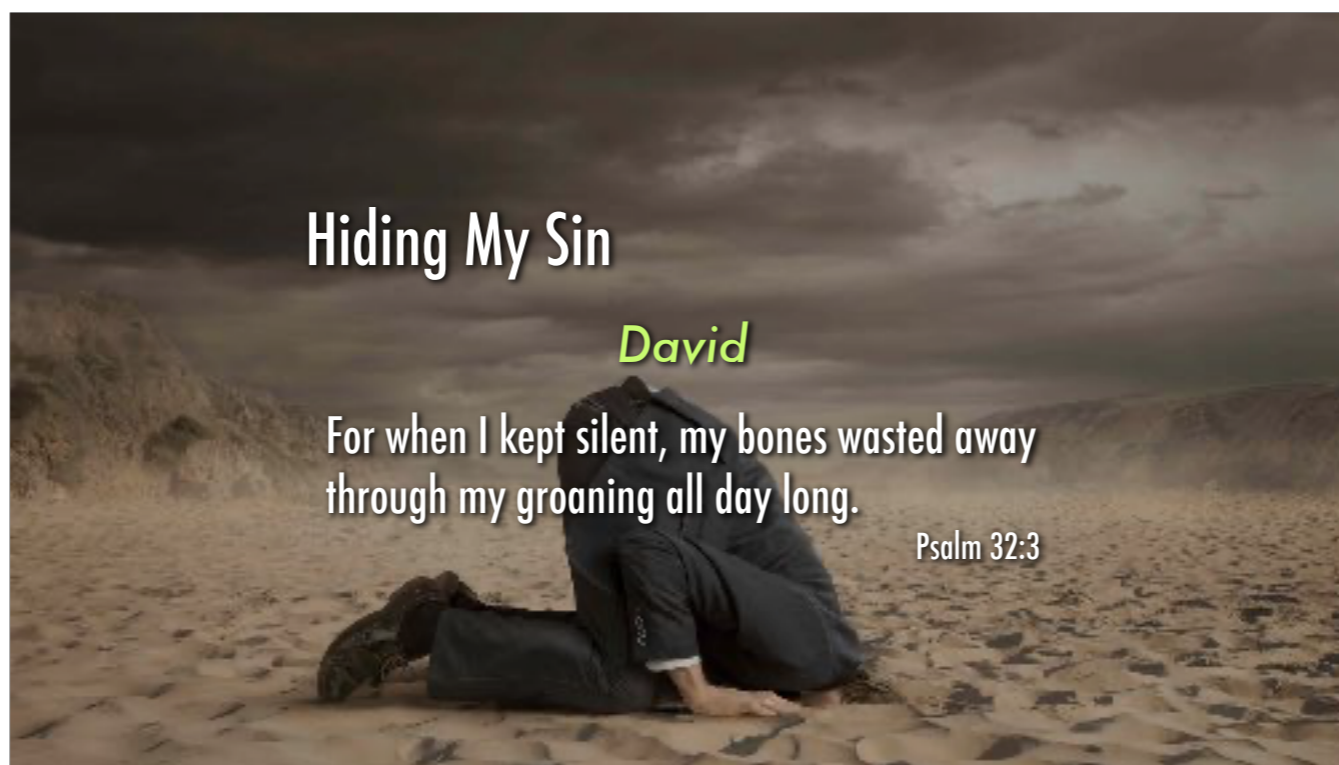
*King Saul*

And Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed be you to Jehovah. I have performed the commandment of Jehovah."

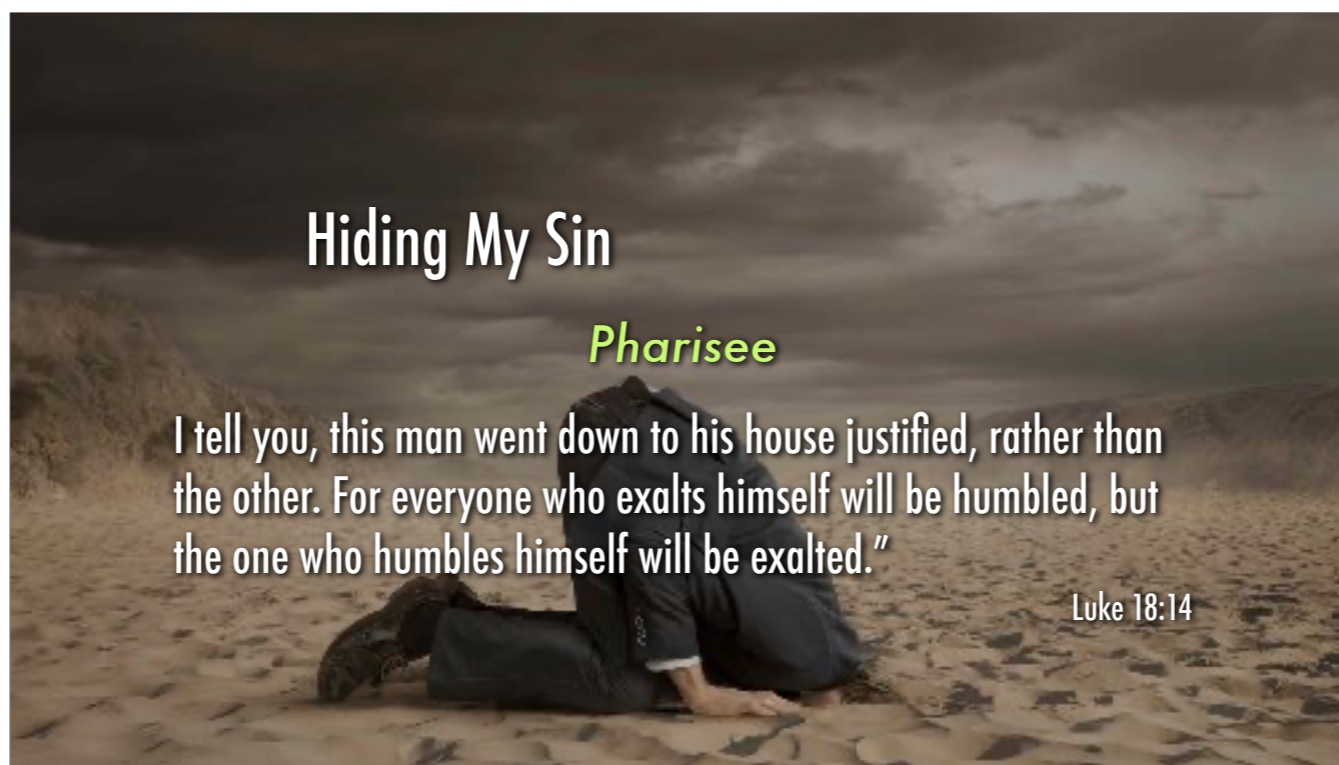
1 Samuel 15:13

- 1 Samuel 15:13 And Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed be you to the LORD. I have performed the commandment of the LORD."





- Psalms 32:3 (ESV) 3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.



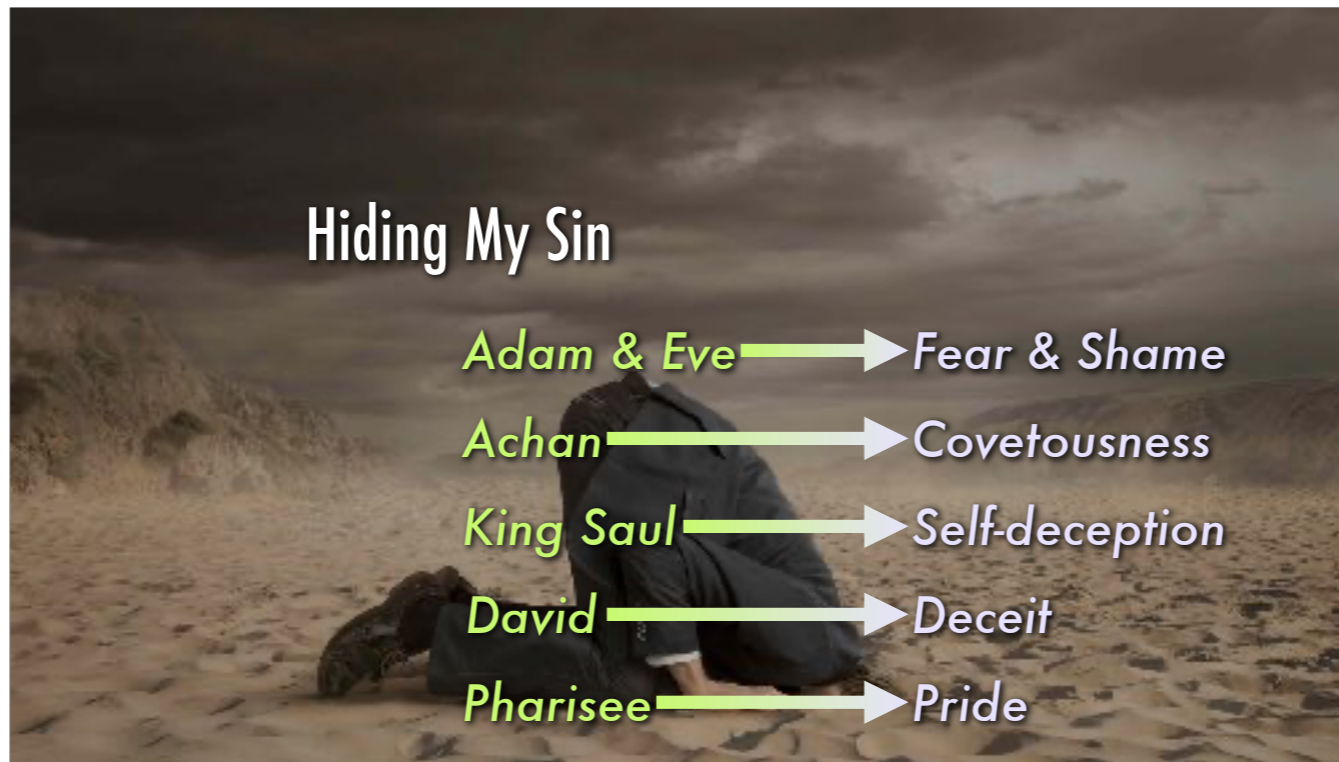
## Hiding My Sin

*Pharisee*

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.”

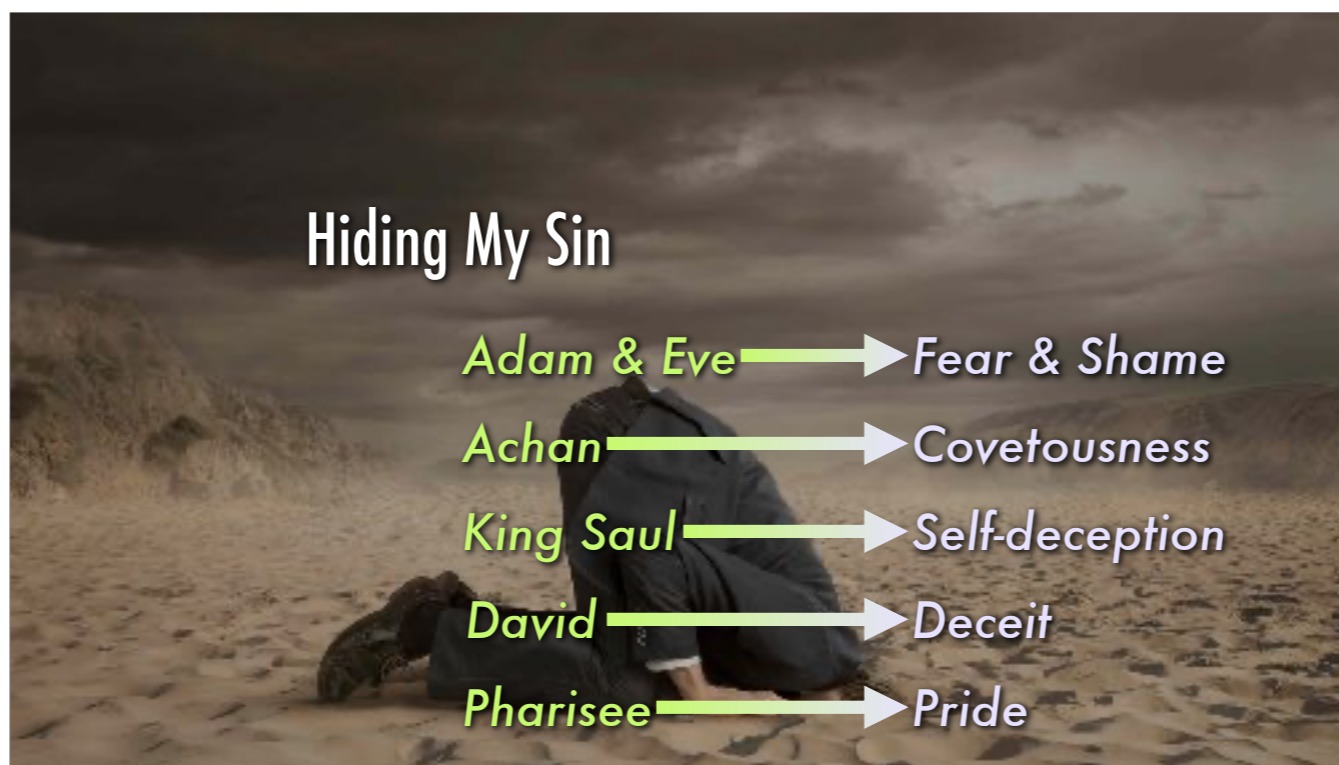
Luke 18:14

- Luke 18:11-12 (ESV) 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.’
- Luke 18:14 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.”



- Why do we try to hide our sin?
  - Adam and Eve: Fear & Shame
  - Achan: Covetousness
  - King Saul: Self-deception (he thought he obeyed)
  - David: Deceit (he didn't want to get caught)
  - Pharisee: Pride (self righteous)





- There are many reasons why we try to hide our sins from God and from ourselves and especially from other.
- Maybe there are more than we've seen here ... but they are typical
- Most of us, at one time or another, try to hide our sin.
- We're generally not like Job

## Hiding My Sin

Whoever conceals his  
transgressions will not  
prosper

Proverbs 28:13

Adam & Eve	→	Fear & Shame
Achan	→	Covetousness
King Saul	→	Self-deception
David	→	Deceit
Pharisee	→	Pride

- Proverbs 28:13 Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.
- Did hiding sin help any of these?



- Proverbs 28:13 Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.



- Why does God want us to confess our sin?
  - (again, he knows anyway)
  - There must be a reason that we need to confess our sins to God





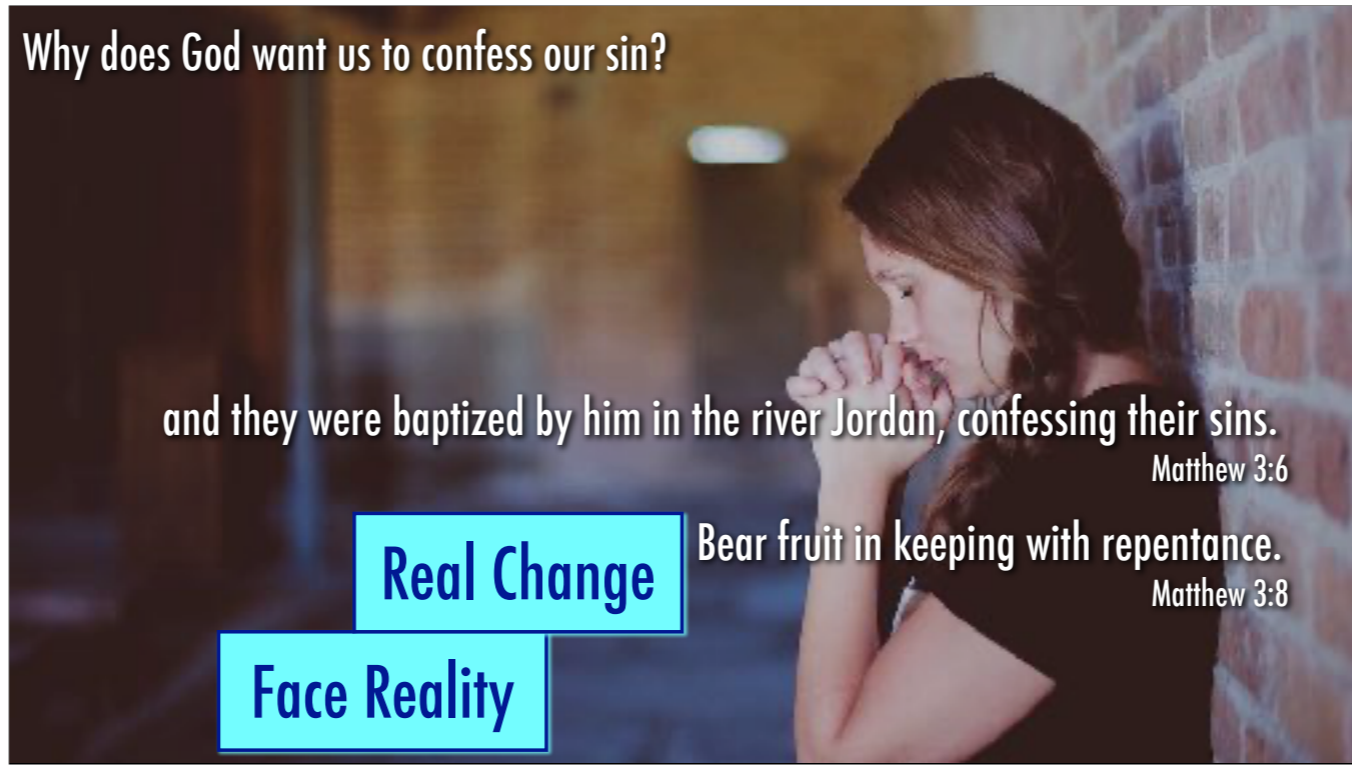
- John 1:19-20 (ESV) 19 And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ."
- Not in context about sin ... but shows contrast between confessing and denying



- Denying is about hiding in one way or another
  - We've seen from Bible and know for ourselves our tendency to hide sin from both God and ourselves and others.
  - Confession is about facing the reality of our sin
    - David understood this from the Psalm ... as long as he was silent (denial) he suffered.

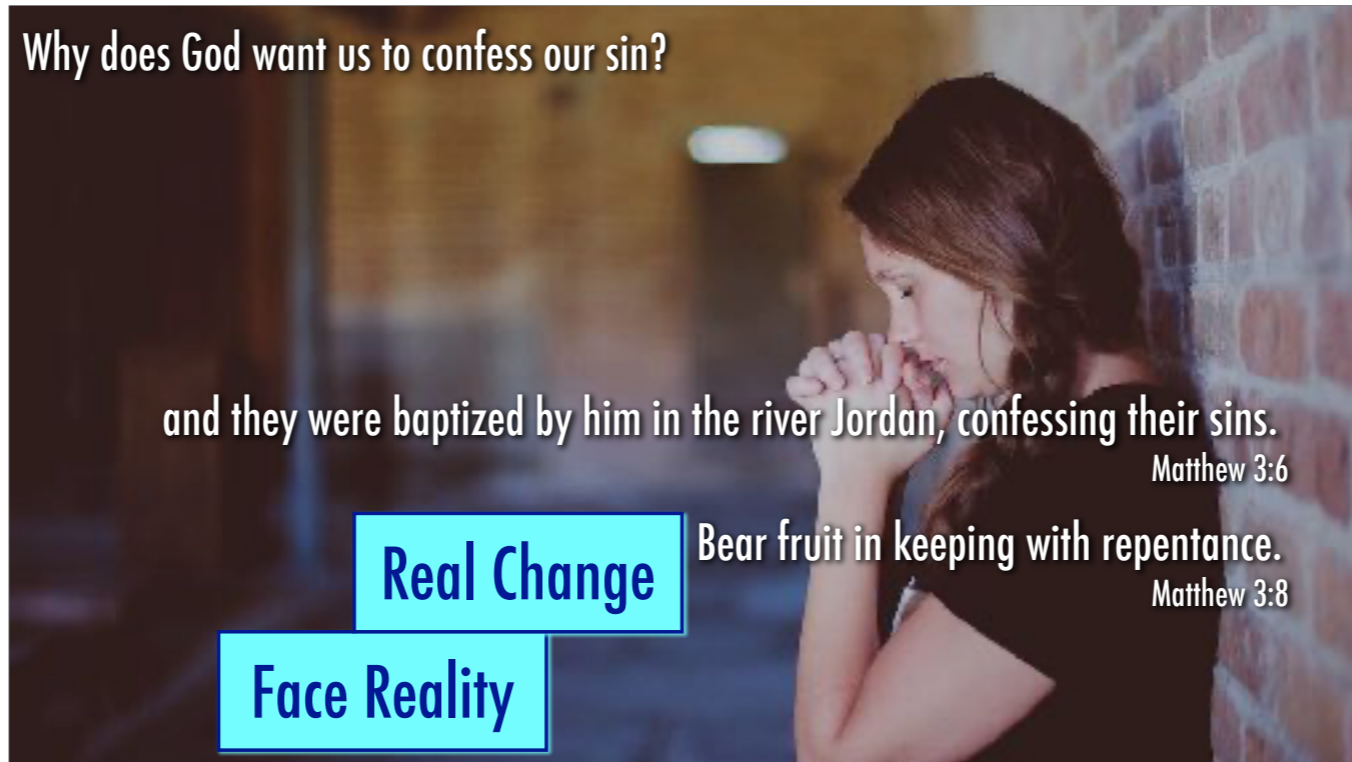


- Matthew 3:5-8 (ESV) 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.



- Confession helps us to make real change in our hearts and our lives.
- The P&S came, but they didn't really think they needed to repent, which means they really didn't think they had sinned, which means they had nothing to confess.
- John doesn't let them get away with this hypocrisy.
  - 1 John 1:8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.





- Bear fruit in keeping with repentance
  - What is this fruit?
    - Many expect tears, mourning, etc.
    - Contextually, it makes sense to me that he's telling them to confess their sins.
  - Confession of sins, precedes repentance (the change of mind that chooses to turn back to God).
  - Confession helps us to make real change in our hearts and our lives.



• Acts 19:17-20 (ESV) 17 And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. 18 Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. 19 And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

Why does God want us to confess our sin?

Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices.

Acts 19:18

Liberates

Real Change

Face Reality

- Confession helps liberate us from our sinful practices.
  - New believers not only confessed
  - They gave up the things that had been normal ... at great cost.
  - They didn't try to rationalize why they should "hold on" to these things ("It's meaningless"), or profit from them
    - Achan's covetousness is a great contrast

Why does God want us to confess our sin?

Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices.

Acts 19:18

**Liberates**

**Real Change**

**Face Reality**

- Confess helps us to rid ourselves of the sinful habits we were accustomed to.
  - It makes it easier for us to let go of those things that we would exalt above Jesus, or add to our faith, or hold on to.



Why does God want us to confess our sin?

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

He is faithful

Liberates

Real Change

Face Reality

- 1 John 1:7-9 (ESV) 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say 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.

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Real Change

Face Reality

- Adam and Eve hid for fear of God, separated themselves from Him
- When we sin, knowing we've betrayed our Father, we are often fearful and ashamed.
- John reminds us that instead of fearing God's wrath, we can trust that he will care for us
  - forgive sins
  - cleanse all unrighteousness.
- So instead of hiding from him, we come home to him.



- Prodigal Son Illustrates this Well: Luke 15:17-24
- Faced Reality
  - 17 “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.””



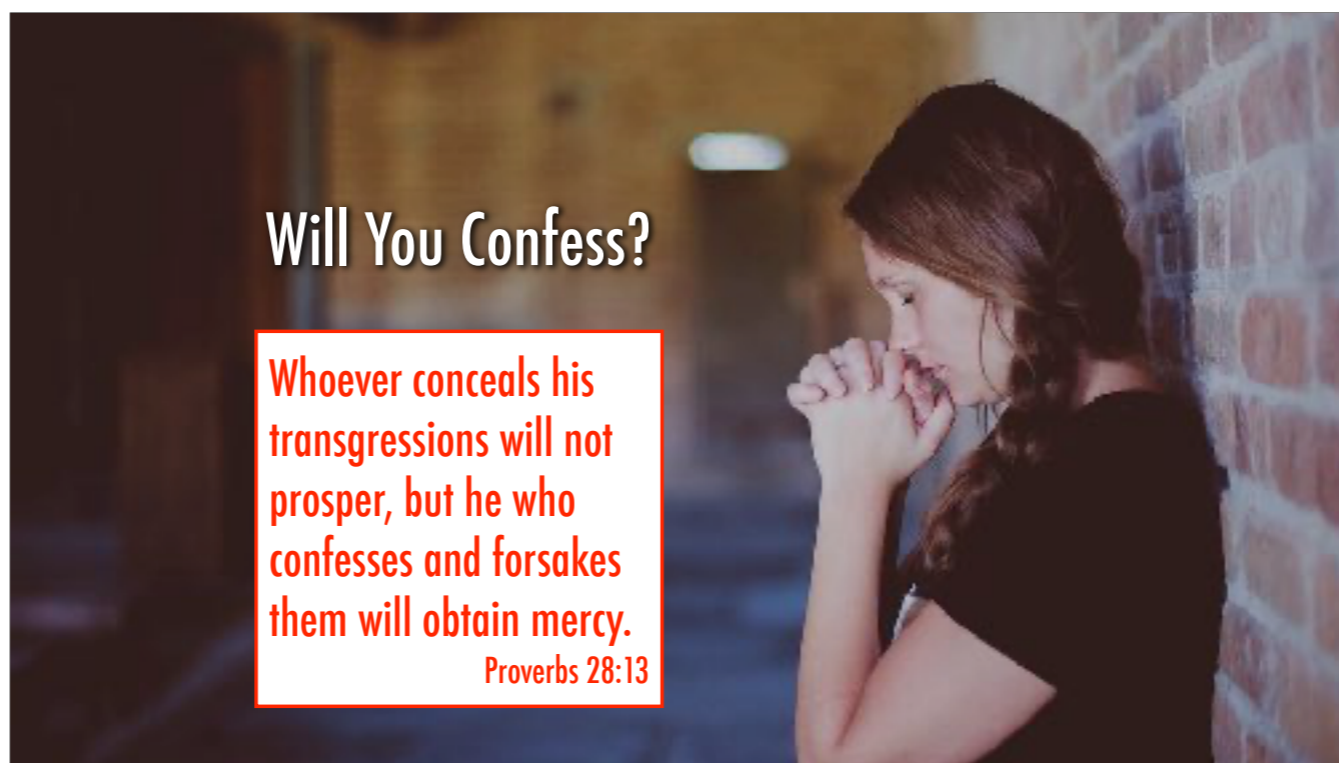
- Real Change and Liberates
  - 20 And he arose and came to his father.
  - I like to think that he didn't look back longingly for the pig sty





- He is Faithful

- But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. 23 And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.



- Will you confess?
  - We all need to ...
- There is mercy
  - Proverbs 28:13 Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

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## I Will Confess

Psalm 32:5-6

Synopsis: Since God knows our sin, why does he desire that we confess our sins. He is like a parent, who wants a child to return. Confessing helps us to face the reality of our sin, make real changes, it liberates us from our past sins and reminds us that He is faithful.

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**“Let all that you do be done with love.”**