

# Seeking Forgiveness

Psalm 32:8-9

## *The Dire Consequences of Disobedience*

- Dire Consequences of Disobedience

*The Dire Consequences of Disobedience*

**But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back,  
and she became a pillar of salt.**  
Genesis 19:26

- Lot's Wife
- Genesis 19:17 And as they brought them out, one said, "Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away."
- Genesis 19:26 But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

*The Dire Consequences of Disobedience*

**And fire came out from before Jehovah and  
consumed them, and they died before Jehovah.**  
Leviticus 10:2

- Nadab and Abihu
- Leviticus 10:2 And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD

*The Dire Consequences of Disobedience*

**And the anger of Jehovah was kindled against  
Uzzah, and God struck him down there because of  
his error, and he died there beside the ark of God.**  
2 Samuel 6:7

- 2 Samuel 6:6-7 (ESV) 6 And when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. 7 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him down there because of his error, and he died there beside the ark of God.

*The Dire Consequences of Disobedience*

**When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it.**

*Acts 5:5*

**Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.**

*Acts 5:10*

- Acts 5:5 When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it.
- Acts 5:10 Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

## Why Are We Stubborn about Seeking Forgiveness?

- Psalms 32:3-4 (ESV) 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; Thus my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

Why Are We Stubborn about Seeking Forgiveness?

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.  
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.  
Selah  
Psalms 32:3-4

- Psalms 32:3-4 (ESV) 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; These my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah



**Why Are We Stubborn about Seeking Forgiveness?**

**For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.  
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.  
Selah  
Psalms 32:3-4**

- What kept David silent?
  - transgression, sin, iniquity
- What keeps us from seeking forgiveness? seeking God? Finding reconciliation?

Why Are We Stubborn about Seeking Forgiveness?

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.  
Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
or it will not stay near you.

Psalms 32:8-9

• Psalms 32:8-9

- I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
- I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
- Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
- which must be curbed with bit and bridle,
- or **it will not stay near you.**

**Why Are We Stubborn about Seeking Forgiveness?**

**I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.  
Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
or it will not stay near you.**

**Psalms 32:8-9**

- Why are we stubborn about seeking forgiveness?

Why Are We Stubborn about Seeking Forgiveness?

## Shame

But what fruit were you getting at that time from  
the things of which you are now ashamed?

Romans 6:21

- Shame.
- I've disappointed God
- Adam and Eve hid in the garden.
- Genesis 2:25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Why Are We Stubborn about Seeking Forgiveness?

## Shame

But what fruit were you getting at that time from  
the things of which you are now ashamed?

Romans 6:21

- Genesis 3:8-10 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. 9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

Why Are We Stubborn about Seeking Forgiveness?

## Shame

But what fruit were you getting at that time from  
the things of which you are now ashamed?

Romans 6:21

- Revelation 3:18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

Why Are We Stubborn about Seeking Forgiveness?

## Shame

But what fruit were you getting at that time from  
the things of which you are now ashamed?

Romans 6:21

- Romans 6:19-21 I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. 20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.

Why Are We Stubborn about Seeking Forgiveness?

## Fear

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.  
Hebrews 10:31

- Fear

- Genesis 3:8-10 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. 9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and **I was afraid**, because I was naked, and I hid myself."



Why Are We Stubborn about Seeking Forgiveness?

Fear

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.  
Hebrews 10:31

- Fear
- Hebrews 10:30-31 (ESV) 30 For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
  - judgment
  - punishment
  - rejection

Why Are We Stubborn about Seeking Forgiveness?

## Denial

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

- Denial / Pride

- 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."

Why Are We Stubborn about Seeking Forgiveness?

## Denial

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

- It wasn't a sin
- The sin wasn't that bad
- You are demanding too much
- You are being too critical

Why Are We Stubborn about Seeking Forgiveness?

## Denial

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

- Psalms 94:7 and they say, "The LORD does not see; the God of Jacob does not perceive."

Why Are We Stubborn about Seeking Forgiveness?

## Denial

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

- Pride
- Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.
- Matthew 7:5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.
  - Pride blinds us to our own sins
  - Comparison with others justifies our self-righteous judgment
    - I'm not as bad as...

Why Are We Stubborn about Seeking Forgiveness?

Deceit

in whose spirit there is no deceit  
Psalm 32:2

- Psalms 32:2 Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Why Are We Stubborn about Seeking Forgiveness?

## Without Understanding

Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding  
Psalm 32:9

- Psalms 32:9 Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding
- What is it that we don't understand?
  - The whole point of this Psalm is to remind us of just how wonderful God's forgiveness is.
  - So our lack of understanding is in how we think of God.

Why Are We Stubborn about Seeking Forgiveness?

## Without Restraint

which must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
or it will not stay near you.

Psalm 32:9

- Psalms 32:9 Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.
- Curb = restrain
  - It's a use of force to keep one near and be useful.
  - It goes against our will: which seems to fit with the idea of denial.



## Instruct, Teach, & Counsel

- Psalms 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
- Instruct
  - (CWSB Dictionary) The primary meaning of the word is to be prudent.
  - (Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words) the potent capacity to understand and so exercise skill in life, a state caused by proper training and teaching, enhanced by careful observation

## Instruct, Teach, & Counsel

- Teach
  - 1 Samuel 12:23 (ESV) 23 Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you, and I will **instruct** you in the good and the right way.
- Counsel
  - (Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words) one who gives advice and direction, with the implication that the advice given is wise and valuable

## Instruct, Teach, & Counsel

- With my eye upon you
  - The point of this is to help us reconcile with our Father.
  - This is not a theological treatise, or philosophy or thought exercise.
  - The whole point of this is to remind us that we can be forgiven and it's more than worth it to seek God's forgiveness.
    - David/God provide for us a wiser way of considering our situation, point us in the proper way and provide valuable advise on how to reconcile with our Father

## Instruct, Teach, & Counsel

- What has he taught us?

## Instruct, Teach, & Counsel

**Blessed is the one whose transgression  
is forgiven, whose sin is covered.**

Psalm 32:1

- Being forgiven is a blessing (1)
  - 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.

## Instruct, Teach, & Counsel

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long. For day and  
night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength  
was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah  
Psalm 32:3-4

- Silence hurts and doesn't help (3)
  - 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

## Instruct, Teach, & Counsel

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  
Psalm 32:5

- Confession leads to forgiveness (5)
  - 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

## Instruct, Teach, & Counsel

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.

Psalm 32:6

- Jehovah wants to help us (6-7)
  - 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



**Instruct, Teach, & Counsel**

**Many are the sorrows of the wicked**  
Psalm 32:10

- Wicked have many sorrows (10)
  - 10 Many are the sorrows of the wicked,

**Instruct, Teach, & Counsel**

**but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in Jehovah.**  
Psalm 32:10

- Trust in Jehovah's steadfast love (10)
  - 10 but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

## Instruct, Teach, & Counsel

Be glad in Jehovah, and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!  
Psalm 32:11

- Rejoice (11)
  - 11 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,
  - and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

## How Did Jesus Treat Those Seeking Forgiveness?

- How Did Jesus Treat Those Seeking Forgiveness?

How Did Jesus Treat Those Seeking Forgiveness?

And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."  
Luke 7:48

- Luke 7:37-38 (ESV) 37 And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, 38 and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.
- 48 And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

## How Did Jesus Treat Those Seeking Forgiveness?

**And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."**  
Luke 19:9-10

- Luke 19:8 (ESV) 8 And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold."
- Luke 19:9-10 (ESV) 9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

How Did Jesus Treat Those Seeking Forgiveness?

And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you,  
today you will be with me in paradise."  
Luke 23:43

- Luke 23:42-43 (ESV) 42 And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

**Seeking forgiveness is hard.**

- Seeking forgiveness is hard.
  - David struggled with seeking God even though he had such a good relationship with him.
  - This Psalm is a reminder that it's well worth the effort to seek God.



**Seeking forgiveness is hard.**

- Lessons for us when others are seeking forgiveness.
  - Don't make it harder for the one seeking forgiveness.
  - Understand the real struggle, that seeking forgiveness is a process
  - We should help them: instruct, teach, counsel
  - With an eye on them

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

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

## Seeking Forgiveness

Psalm 32:8-9

Synopsis: Seeking forgiveness is hard. In this section of David's Psalm he reminds us to overcome our tendency to not seek forgiveness and provides reason to reconcile with God.

\*Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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