

Weekly Study Guide | March 2, 2025

Don't Be a Donkey!

Psalm 32 | A Psalm of David. A maskil.

1 Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. 2 Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them 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 on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. 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. 6 Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them. 7 You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. 8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on 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 one who trusts in him. 11 Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!

SUPPORT: [Psalm 32](#); [Psalm 17:8](#); [Deuteronomy 32:10-12](#); [Psalm 25:14](#); [Acts 7:51](#), [19:9](#); [Romans 2:5](#); [Proverbs 26:3](#)

Questions:

1. What stands out to you in the verses above? What do you think is the main topic of this Psalm? What is the writer trying to teach us?
2. Why is it so important that we receive forgiveness for our sins? What happens when we don't? What happens when we do?
3. How does God want to lead and instruct us? Why should we not be like the horse or donkey? What does the bit and bridle represent?
4. What can we learn from this lesson? What are a few takeaways? How does it apply to you today? How can it encourage you and help strengthen your relationship with God? What difference will this make in your daily walk with Christ?

For later: Please take time to prayerfully reflect on how this lesson relates to you. What did you learn? What are some personal takeaways and insights you gained? What is a practical way you can apply this to your life? How will this help strengthen your relationship with God? What difference will this make in your life? Is there anything you need to change in light of this lesson?

Summary: The Hebrew word "maskil" can be translated as "wise saying," "contemplation," or "instruction." A maskil is a psalm that imparts wisdom. Its purpose is to teach and give insight. Psalm 32 focuses on the blessings of forgiveness and the importance of being in a right relationship with God.

God calls us into relationship with Him. He wants to guide us with His eye. This speaks of a close, personal, and intimate relationship with God—far different from the horse or donkey that pulls against God and requires a bit and bridle to be controlled. God wants us to draw near willingly, not by force.

Sin stands in the way of our relationship with God, draining our strength. We must be willing to acknowledge and confess our transgressions to be made right with God. A stubborn heart remains silent. Pride prevents us from taking responsibility for our sins. We may even attempt to hide or cover them up. Instead, we should ask God for a willing spirit, that He would sustain us with His generous Spirit ([Psalm 51:12](#)). When we bring our lives willing, even eagerly, before God so that nothing is hidden, He covers our sin, and we can experience the joy of His forgiveness. We can be glad and rejoice because the Lord's unfailing love surrounds all those who look to Him.