II. The God Who Forgives: God's Unfailing Love

Psalms 32 & 51

**I. The Big Cover Up (Or Don't Be a Donkey) (Psalm 32)**

The psalmist contrasts the way of the wicked with the way of the righteous. The choice is simple. You can live in silence with reference to sin, refuse to confess, and experience woe, or you can confess your sin and live in the sphere of Yahweh's unfailing love.

A. Blessing of Forgiveness (32:1-5)

B. Promise of Protection (32:6-11)

**II. Can You Die from a Broken Heart? Can You Go Blind from Crying**

**in the Dark? (Psalm 51)**

Psalm 51 is one of the few psalms that pinpoint historical origin. This is a psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. A working knowledge of 2 Sam 11-12 is essential for hearing this psalm well.

A. Plea for Removal of Sin Based on God's Mercy and Steadfast Love [*Hesed*] (51:1-2)

B. Confession of Sin (51:3-6)

C. Prayer of Renewal and Restoration (51:7-12)

D. The Promise of the One Restored: David's Great Commission (51:13-17)

E. The Rebuilding of the Community of God's People (18-19)

\*Note the use of the Hebrew term *hesed* in 32:10 and 51:1. A common translation is "steadfast love," but it is so much more. It is "lovingkindness," "kindness," "abiding mercy," covenant faithfulness, and more. It is difficult to fully comprehend all the range of meaning of a word in another language, but hesed is a doozy. It is a word so suggestive of good stuff, so fragrant of fresh starts, so freighted with joy, that no one has ever come up with an adequate English translation. It simply signifies the best kind of mercy one could imagine.