Introduction:

      1. In His Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-13), Jesus showed how certain people will be *"blessed."*

      2. Similar statements are found throughout the Bible, including Psalm 32.

      3. In this Psalm David wrote at length about a special blessing -- "God's forgiveness."

Discussion:

I.   (vs.1-2) DAVID FIRST DECLARED HOW A FORGIVEN PERSON IS *"BLESSED"*

    A. God's mercy makes it possible for a person to be free of:

      1. *"transgression"* [it is forgiven]

      2. *"sin"* [it is covered]

      3. *"iniquity"* [the Lord does not impute it to him]

      4. *"guile"* [his spirit is free of it].

    B. David listed several special blessings available to those who are forgiven.

      1. (vs.6a) A godly person is able to talk to God through prayer.

      2. (vs.7) God preserves and delivers His people.

      3. (vs.8) God provides instruction and guidance for His people.

      4. (vs.11) Righteous people are able to rejoice.

    C. (vs.10b) Through His mercy, God provides these blessings to those who trust in Him.

II.   (vs.3-4) DAVID DESCRIBED HIS MISERABLE CONDITION AT A TIME WHEN HE NEEDED GOD'S FORGIVENESS

    A. David referred to a time when his life was not right with God.

      1. He seems to have described his condition after he committed adultery with Bathsheba and had her husband killed (2 Samuel 11).

      2. David also expressed his anguish as a sinner in Psalm 38:4-8.

    B. In Psalm 32 David went on to say in vs.10a that the wicked experience *"many sorrows."*

    C. According to Psalm 130:7-8, God's willingness to forgive produces hope.

III.   (vs.5) DAVID RECEIVED GOD'S FORGIVENESS

    A. He acknowledged and confessed his sin, and God forgave him.

    B. David also confessed his sin in Psalm 38:18; Psalm 51:1-4.

    C. David was confident that God heard his requests (Psalm 6:9).

IV.   ADDITIONAL MATTERS

    A. Jesus shed His blood to provide forgiveness (Ephesians 1:7).

    B. Under His new covenant, the Lord forgives those who:

      1. obey the Gospel (Acts 2:37-38)

      2. walk in the light (1 John 1:7) and confess their sins (1 John 1:9).