SERMON OUTLINE - THE MIND-BOGGLING FORGIVENESS OF GOD (1 John 1.9)

I. INTRODUCTION — THE PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS (1 John 1:9)

A. The Meaning of Confession

- "To say the same thing" — agreeing with God about sin.
- Confession concedes guilt rather than excusing it.

B. The Character of God in Forgiveness

- "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins."
- "If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself" (2 Tim. 2:13).

C. The Cleansing of God

- "Create in me a clean heart" (Ps. 51:10)
- God not only forgives the act but cleanses the heart.

II. THE ANATOMY OF A FALL — 2 SAMUEL 11

A. David at the Peak of His Powers

- David in his 50s — psychological studies say that people are at the apex of wisdom, maturity, and cognitive strength.
- *"Then it happened…"* — success can make us forget who brought us there.
- "Pride goes before destruction…" (Proverbs 16:18)

B. Vulnerability Through Neglect

- *"At the time when kings go out to battle… David stayed in Jerusalem."*
- Neglect of responsibility creates opportunity for temptation.
- The enemy waits for *"an opportune time" (Luke 4:13)*
- *"Your adversary the devil prowls around…" (1 P. 5:8)*

C. The Threefold Temptation (1 John 2:16)

- Pride of life — walking on the roof.
- Lust of the eyes — "he saw a woman… very beautiful."
- Lust of the flesh — "David sent and inquired about her."
- The same pattern appears in Genesis 3 and in the temptation of Jesus.

D. The Devil Can Tempt You, But He Cannot Make You

- *"Each one is tempted when he is carried away by his own lust" (James 1:14).*
- "The devil made me do it" is a lie straight out of hell.
- Lack of confession keeps the enemy in control.

E. God's Warning Signs

- The unnamed "someone" who warns David — God often speaks through people.
- *"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me…" (Ps. 23:6).*
- God throws up warning signs to stop us from going down a dark path.

F. The Cover-Up

- Bathsheba's pregnancy.
- David's manipulation of Uriah.
- Uriah's death warrant carried by his own hand.
- "Your coverup is never really a coverup… somebody knows… and the Lord knows."

G. God's Faithfulness in the Midst of Our Faithlessness

- *"If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself."*
- God is too faithful to let His children get away with sin.
- Hebrews 12 — discipline proves sonship.
- David is king, but there is a King of kings who holds him accountable.

H. The Comfort of Divine Justice

- Even when earthly powers refuse to hold people accountable, *"the moral arc of the universe is long but bends toward justice."*

III. GOD'S CONFRONTATION AND DAVID'S CONFESSION — 2 SAMUEL 12

A. God Speaks Through Multiple Means

- Through someone.
- Through circumstances.
- Through the prophet Nathan.

B. David's Confession

- *"I have sinned against the Lord."*
- Psalm 51 — David's full confession.

- Psalm 32 — God's answer.

C. God's Forgiveness and God's Consequences

- David is forgiven and allowed to live.
- But consequences remain:
    - Division in his household.
    - What he did in secret will be done to him openly.
    - The child will die — *"God could not bless this mess."*

D. God Uses Consequences to Heal Unfaithfulness

- David never sins in this way again.
- Bathsheba becomes queen.
- David never marries another wife after her.
- God heals by humbling.

E. God Can Rewrite Your Story

- God can change you so deeply that *"if you told somebody what you did, they wouldn't believe you."*
- It's not only, "you don't look like what you've been through, but "you don't look like what you did."

IV. CONCLUSION — THE CROSS, THE GRAVE, AND THE EMPTY TOMB

A. The Cross

- The cross is God's love that forgives sin.
- The cross is God's righteousness that judges sin.

B. The Grave

- The grave is the consequence of sin.

C. The Empty Tomb

- The empty tomb demonstrates that God's forgiveness and judgment of sin can give us an again.
- "The cross will always represent the love God had for me… Jesus came and did it just for me!"