

Love, Lies and Alibis
 Luke 18:9-14, Psalm 32:1-11
 February 25, 2018

1.1 We often blame our _____ for our sins.
 Exodus 32:22-24 ***“Do not be angry, my lord,” Aaron answered. “You know how prone these people are to evil. 23 They said to me, ‘Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.’ 24 So I told them, ‘Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.’ Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!”***

1.2 We blame _____ for our sins.
 Genesis 3:12-13 ***The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”***

1.3 We _____ any wrong-doing.
 Proverbs 30:20 ***“This is the way of an adulteress; she eats and wipes her mouth and says, ‘I have done nothing wrong.’”***
 Luke 18:9 ***To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable:***

1.4 We _____ ourselves to others.
 Luke 18:11 ***11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector.***

1.5 We try to _____ for our sins.
 Luke 18:12 ***I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.***

2. Instead, God invites us to _____.

Luke 18:13 ***“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’***

Psalm 32:3-6 ***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.***

3. We can confess because, in Jesus Christ, God _____.

Luke 18:14 ***“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”***

I John 1:8-9 ***If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.***

Psalm 32:1-2 ***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.***

I John 4:10 ***This is love: Not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”***

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- What will you do about your biggest problem?
- Our biggest problem isn't that our clothes keep shrinking,
 - or the lifestyle we want is too expensive for our paychecks
 - or that our bosses are about as smart as a muskrat.
- Sin: short-coming, iniquity, transgression, unrighteousness.
- Sin separates us from the love of God.
- We were created in the image of God to enjoy an intimate relationship with Him.
- But that image is marred, defaced, distorted by sin.
- So sin prevents us from experiencing the joy, fulfillment, meaning God wants us to enjoy.
- So what are we going to do about sin?
- This morning we're going to look at 5 futile and foolish ways people try to deal with the sin in their lives.
- Let's take a look at "Love, Lies and Alibis."

1.1 We often blame our circumstances for our sins.
 Exodus 32:22-24 ***"Do not be angry, my lord," Aaron answered. "You know how prone these people are to evil. 23 They said to me, 'Make us gods who will go before us. ...***

- Cultural circumstances. "Everybody does it."

As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.'

- Historical circumstances. – "Moses is gone." Our leaders.

24 So I told them, 'Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!'

- Moses didn't buy it. God didn't buy it. We don't buy it.
- Aaron did wrong. He had a choice.

- Genetic circumstances. “Born that way” – Donna Hamill.
I wasn’t born with a “fidelity” gene.
I had a choice.

1.2 We blame someone else for our sins.

Genesis 3:12-13 ***The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”***

- Blame the wife. Pass the buck.
- “I didn’t say it was your fault, I said I’m blaming you.”
- Ann Russell's "Psychiatric Folksong" has some fun with this point of view.
“At three I had a feeling of Ambivalence toward my brothers,
“And so it follows naturally I poisoned all my lovers.
“But now I'm happy I have learned The lesson this has taught;
“That everything I do that's wrong Is someone else's fault.”²
- *We laugh because it’s ridiculous.*
- As Jimmy Buffet said, “Some people claim that there’s a woman to blame, but I know, [flute] [Ray] *it’s my own fault.*”

1.3 We deny any wrong-doing.

Proverbs 30:20 ***“This is the way of an adulteress; she eats and wipes her mouth and says, ‘I have done nothing wrong.’”***

- We live in moral milieu where absolutes are obsolete.

Luke 18:9 ***To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable:***

1.4 We compare ourselves to others.

Luke 18:11 *11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector.*

- NASB “prayed thus to himself.”
- Maybe God grades on the curve.
- Billy Graham: a sinner.

1.5 We try to make up (compensate, make amends) for our sins.

Luke 18:12 *I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.*

- The good outweighs the bad.
- One drop of cyanide in a glass of pure water.

2. Instead, God invites us to confess.

Luke 18:13 *“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’*

Psalm 32:3-6 *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.

- Confession clears up the relationship.
- Confession gets sin out of the way.

3. We can confess because, in Jesus Christ, God forgives.

Luke 18:14 *“I tell you that this man, rather than the other,*

went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

I John 1:8-9 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Psalms 32:1-2 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.

I John 4:10 This is love: Not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

- **Confess immediately.**
- **Confess daily.**
- **Confess to others. James**
- **Let's confess now.**