

JESUS' TEACHING ABOUT SIN

Matthew 1:19-21

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Some people don't like to talk about sin. ILLUSTRATION: One of the most successful TV evangelists of our day has stated that he will not talk about sin in his sermons. Everything he preaches must be positive.
- B. When Joseph learned that his future wife was pregnant, he was minded to put her away. But an angel of the Lord revealed to Joseph that Mary's conception was miraculous and that the virgin would bring forth a son (Matthew 1:23). He was instructed to name the child Jesus, "For it is he that shall *save his people from their sins*" **Matthew 1:21**.
- C. Jesus came to *seek and save the lost*, **Luke 19:10**. We would expect, therefore, that while the Son of God was on earth, he taught much regarding sin. Indeed he did, and we would profit from looking at some of the sayings of Jesus about sin.

I. SOME OF THE SAYINGS ON SIN REVEALED THE PURPOSE FOR HIS COMING.

- A. When the Lord was criticized for eating with sinners, he revealed the purpose of his coming by responding, "They that are in health have no need of a physician; but they that are sick. I am not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance" **Luke 5:31-32**.
- B. He also taught the purpose of His coming in PARABLES. He taught the nature of his coming in parables as well. Remember the "lost" chapter of the Bible, Luke 15, wherein the Lord taught the parables of the lost *SHEEP*, the lost *COIN*, and the lost *BOYS*?
- C. One of the most memorable sayings of Jesus on sin is found in **Matthew 26:28**. Jesus said, "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is *shed for many for the remission of sins*."
 - 1. This reminds us of the purpose for which Christ left heaven and took on flesh.
 - 2. This ought to instruct us on what Jesus taught about sin. Sin is so horrible that only the blood of the Son of God could atone.

II. SOME OF THE LORD'S REMARKS ABOUT SIN HAVE BEEN MISAPPLIED.

- A. For example, when a woman was taken in the act of adultery, she was brought to Jesus for judgment, **John 8**.
 - 1. He dispersed the multitude by stating, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her" **John 8:7**.
 - 2. The verse is loved by many who hope that its recitation, at just the right moment,

will inoculate them against “judging.”

B. HOWEVER, NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Christians SHOULD judge one another (1 Corinthians 5:12-13; John 7:24).
2. The Lord DID NOT CONDONE this woman’s sin. He commanded her to “go thy way; from henceforth sin no more” (John 8:11).
3. Jesus revealed the HYPOCRISY OF THE ACCUSERS who were more interested in ensnaring the Lord than preserving holiness in their community (cf. Mark 7:1-13). And where was the man who also was caught in “the act of adultery” (cf. Leviticus 20:10)?
4. Jesus RESPECTED THE MOSAIC LAW that prohibited adultery and the punishment that the law prescribed. He also regarded the laws of accusation and testimony, which may not have been satisfied in this case.
5. The Son of God had THE RIGHT TO FORGIVE SINS (cf. Mark 2:10). The response to this situation by Jesus, the Son of God, was not designed to insulate wicked and impenitent individuals from rebuke or discipline in the Christian Age.

C. Another example: Jesus’ words to the THIEF ON THE CROSS.

1. His circumstances of salvation: lived and died during the Mosaic age, before the terms of admission to the Church were established on Pentecost.
2. This has been misapplied today, as if he was under the same dispensation as we are.
3. Jesus had the right to forgive sins under any dispensation.
4. We now live in the Christian dispensation, and baptism is now a requirement.

III. SOME OF THE SAYINGS ON SIN BY JESUS ARE PUZZLING.

- A. He said on one occasion, “If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no excuse for their sin” **John 15:22**.
1. Did Jesus mean that the Jews would not have been in sin had he not come?
 2. Would they have been better off had he not come?
- B. The Lord WAS NOT SAYING that the Jews were, before his coming, absolutely sinless.
1. They did have *other sins* in their life.
 2. But when he came, taught, and performed his works, they had a CHOICE. *And they chose to sin by rejecting Him.*
- C. The point of Jesus is this: their rejection was in the face of indisputable evidence. With the great opportunity of witnessing the incarnation of the Son of God came great responsibility.
- D. *THE STUBBORN JEWS REJECTED THEIR MESSIAH* and were held accountable for it by God (cf. Matthew 22:5-7).

IV. OTHER SAYINGS OF JESUS TEACH US ABOUT THE NATURE OF SIN

- A. Jesus recognized the serious nature of sin, **John 8:21-36**.

- B. Only the truth will set us free **John 8:32.**
- C. Our conscience is easier to ignore as we pursue sin, **Hebrews 3:12-13.**
“but exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin..” v.13.
- D. Sin will:
 - DECEIVE** you
 - IMPRISON** you
 - CONDEMN** you

CONCLUSION:

- A. It is clear to see the Lord’s view of sin.
- B. Remember, no sin will enter heaven, **Revelation 21:27.**
“But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.”
- C. Do YOU need to remove sin today?
- D. You can remove sin and be right with God RIGHT NOW.
- E. What if this is the “LAST SERMON?”

“...THE LAST SERMON...” -- 100 YEARS LATER

April 15, 1906 was Easter Sunday that year. By all accounts, church buildings were full. (It is generally acknowledged that church attendance is at its highest on Easter.) None of the citizens of San Francisco, including the preachers, had any idea that the following Wednesday, April 18, would bring death and destruction to many of them in the form of the “Great Quake.” One of the preachers, Charles Reynolds Brown, looked back at that Sunday and said, “*How differently I would have preached, if I had only known that many of those in my audience were hearing the last sermon they would ever hear.*” (Quoted in Batsell Barrett Baxter’s book, ***If I Be Lifted Up***)

As a preacher, I am moved by his remarks, and I would do well to reflect on them from time to time. It is needful to realize that we (preachers) are speaking, as one man said, “*as dying men to dying men.*” The urgency of the gospel message drives us to proclaim Jesus’ sacrificial death and the need for man’s obedient response to him. Though we cannot always bring the same amount of passion to each sermon, we can structure them so that they call for man’s response.

But the burden is not only on preachers. Each listener must understand that he/she must receive the sermon with the knowledge that God expects their obedience. Surely, “**woe to me if I do not preach the gospel**” (1 Corinthians 9:15) -- but woe also unto the listeners who do not receive the faithfully preached message “**as it is really is, the word of God**” (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

What about you? What if the sermon you heard Sunday was the last one? Did you take it to heart? Did you reject it -- dismissing the preacher for being intrusive and meddlesome? Did you put off making a decision till a more convenient time? Or, were you long past even listening to what he or anyone else had to say about religious matters?

You may have just assumed that you would have at least one more Sunday, and maybe even another year, to take care of spiritual matters -- and you may be right. However, you may also be very wrong. Make sure your heart is right -- and neither you or the preacher will have regrets.

“**Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring**” (Proverbs 27:1). “**Behold now is the favorable time; behold now is the day of salvation**” (2 Corinthians 6:2). *All Scripture quotations taken from the English Standard Version.*

-- Lance

Cordle

