

Sin's Fascinating Power

Text-Matt. 5:27-28

Introduction: Our study of sin finds its basis in the Sermon on the Mount.

Wiersbe said, "The Sermon on the Mount is one of the most misunderstood messages that Jesus ever gave. One group says it is God's plan of salvation, that if we ever hope to go to heaven we must obey these rules. Another group calls it a "charter for world peace" and begs the nations of the earth to accept it. Still a third group tells us that the Sermon on the Mount does not apply to today, but that it will apply at some future time, perhaps during the tribulation or the millennial kingdom."

I have always felt that **Matthew 5:20** was the key to this important sermon: "For I say unto you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." The main theme is true righteousness. The religious leaders had an artificial, external righteousness based on law. But the righteousness Jesus described is a true and vital righteousness that begins internally, in the heart. The Pharisees were concerned about the minute details of conduct, but they neglected the major matter of character. Conduct flows out of character.

Whatever applications the Sermon on the Mount may have to world problems, or to future events, it is certain that this sermon has definite applications for us today. Jesus gave this message to individual believers, not to the unsaved world at large. What was taught in the Sermon on the Mount is repeated in the New Testament Epistles for the church today. Jesus originally gave these words to His disciples (Matt. 5:1), and they have shared them with us.

I. The Manifestation of Sin

Here the Lord sets forth **FIVE FORMS OF SIN** that hinder a holy life.

He deals with sin as sin is-

1. Ungodly Anger 21-26
2. Unholy Lust 27-28
3. Unhappy Marriage 31-32
4. Unguarded Speech 33-37
5. Unbroken Self 38-48

SOME LISTS OF SINS.

Mark 7:21-23 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

II. The Meaning of Sin

"Ye have heard it said.....But, I say unto you... 21-27-31-33-38

- Sin Means Willful Transgression 26
- Sins of Commission
- Sins of Omission James 4:12-17
- Sin Is Lustful Intention 27-29

This Is Sin as Jesus sees it...

- **Depths** **Deceitfulness** **Danger** **Dirtyiness**

Our hunger for holiness is determined by our conception of sin. The World has no conception of sin and seemingly, neither does the Church.

III. The Menace of Sin

While in this body we face the Threat of Sin.

While in this body we face the Torment of sin.

While in this body we face the Temptation to sin.

In the Bible we see sin unclothed and naked.

See sin in its *fascinating* power

Eve saw-looked=Look

See sin in its *actuating* power

David sinned-

Samson saw and "wanted her"

See sins *dominating* power

Soul and body in hell

IV. The Mastery Over Sin

Romans 6 says "*Sin shall not have dominion over you*"6:14

- How Can it be?
- What is the Secret?
- Confess to God the fascination of sin and be true to God.
- Crucify the activation of sin.
- Control the domination of sin

Let not sin therefore reign...

- **SIN WILL TAKE YOU FARTHER THAN YOU WANT TO GO**
- **SIN WILL KEEP YOU LONGER THAN YOU WANT TO STAY**
- **SIN WILL COST MORE THAN YOU WANT PAY**

YOU HAVE THE LAST SAY ABOUT SIN.

Anything you have to cover up will eventually cover you up.

It is so much easier to deal with sin by never opening the door to temptation than it is to try to rid yourself of sin after you have welcomed it into your heart and mind.

Before you choose to do something "just because you can," ask yourself, "If I engaged in this activity casually or on a regular basis, where would it lead me?" or better yet "***Where COULD it lead me if it became my master?***"

If it could lead to holiness and more freedom it's a path God would celebrate. If it could lead to compromise and consequences it is a detour the devil hopes you'll take.

This is how **Susannah Wesley** defined sin: "

Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, and takes off the relish of spiritual things-that to you is sin." Gulp. I happen to believe she is right.