

The Oldest Sins in the Book – Aug 9, 2023 – Part Two

Sin - wrongful acts. Violating God's will by doing our will instead.

James 4:17 NLT – “it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.”

We – like Edam & Eve - have ability to sin, or not. We're free to choose. Why? Choosing to love someone is the greatest gift. Arranged marriage?

The Five Oldest Sins: **Discontent is root/sin:** pride, rebellion, unbelief.

1st Oldest Human Sin – Eve's Sin - Unbelief

- **Serpent** twisted the Truth, causing Eve to doubt God's word.
- **PRIDE** caused Eve to think God was holding out on her . . . for own good.

2nd Oldest Sin – Adam's Sin was different: Peer Pressure ... Stood Silent, joined.

- **Adam gave in to Peer Pressure . . .** which caused his **Rebellion**.
 - o Beware of wanting to please people more than God.

3rd Oldest Sin – Running Away from God.

- After eating forbidden fruit, Adam & Eve realize they're naked. Hide.
Gen. 3:7-8 – “the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. 8 Then they heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.”
- Sin sent them **hiding**. They don't repent, they hide. Distance.
 - o **Truth:** you can't hide from God.
“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.” – **Heb. 4:13**
 - o **Truth:** they were naked the whole time. Sin brought **shame**.
 - o **GENESIS 2:25** “Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.”
 - o **Jesus took our shame & nailed it to the cross.**
- **Isaiah 61** – “*The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. . . . 7 Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance.*”
- God doesn't want us living with shame. **Double portion for shame.**

- **God's promise** to us... He will **exchange** His good for our bad.
- **The Cross reversed everything.** **Weak** are strong. **Poor** are rich.
 - **Outcast** has family. **Sick** are well. **Broken** are whole
 - **Sinners** are righteous. **Captives** are free. **Beauty** for ashes.
- **Stop hiding.** Stand at the foot of the cross. Pick up your **crown**.
"I will cling to the Old Rugged Cross, & Exchange it some day for a crown."

4th Oldest Sin – Shifting the Blame

- God asked did you eat from the tree? Adam blamed Eve.
- God asked what have you done? Eve blamed the serpent.
 - Ever since, we've been doing the same: blame others, circumstances
 - W/sin, we can't blame others. Sin comes from our own hearts.
 - **James 1:12-15** - God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. **14** Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us & drag us away. **15** These desires give birth to sinful actions & when sin is allowed to grow it gives birth to death
 - **This is Adam & Eve's story.** No "I'm Sorry." No repentance.
- Even in **consequences, God is merciful.** There is always love.

GEN. 3:21 – "And the Lord God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife."

- God became the 1st tailor. Their efforts- fig leaf – not enough.
- Our efforts to deal w/our sin are never enough. Need Jesus.

5th Oldest Sin – Fake Worship Adam & Eve have Cain, then Abel.

Gen. 4 – following the 1st recorded act of worship is the 5th sin: **Fake Worship.**

Gen. 4: 2-5 ... "Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. ³ When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord. ⁴ Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his gift, ⁵ but he did not accept Cain & his gift. This made Cain very angry...."

- **Abel** brings his best to God. He came with the right spirit

HEBREWS 11:4 "It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel's offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man & God showed his approval of his gifts."

Abel worships God. Cain goes thru the motions.

- **Going thru the motions** looks like worship, but it's not. Insincere.

- Cain gave God what was left over, what he didn't want. Able gave best.
 - o We can go to church, but be far from God.
 - o We can say we're "praying," but it's not prayer if we aren't listening.
 - o We can do many things "in the name of God," but really be doing our own will . . . what we want. That's sin.
- **MATTHEW 7:21-23** "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'
 - In the name of God, Jews threw Peter & John out of synagogue.
 - In the name of God, people commit murder.
 - In the name of God, people have protested military funerals
 - *Fred Phelps, Westboro Baptist Ch, told people God hated them.*
 - o **Truth** – God so loved the world that He gave His only Son...
 - o **Truth** – God is love. **Truth:** We love God b/c He first loved us.
- Jesus said: "true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way." **Jn 4:23**
Truth: We can't worship God in love with hate in our hearts.
- Jesus said – **Matt. 5:23-24** - "if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift."
- John wrote: "If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar;" **I John 4:20**

What's in our hearts matters when we come to worship.

- Don't mistake fake worship for genuine worship.
- God loves you. He offers mercy. Compassion. Love.
- Let God show you his exchange program – His goodness for your sin.

Song/week - Acapella - "The Old Rugged Cross" by Kaoma.