

PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE

Text: Matthew 5: 27-30

INTRODUCTION: This is more than a fancy title to a sermon, it is a terrible reality. The public enemy number one is sin. Sin has even created a problem in heaven.

Here in these verses we have Christ's teaching with regard to the nature of sin. He is showing the exceeding sinfulness of sin. The doctrine of sin is not popular. It is explained away by many-- Psychologists, etc. But it is very important that we understand the true nature of sin.

1. It is necessary to our understanding of the New Testament way of salvation--Jesus' death on the cross--why?

There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin;
He only could unlock the gate
Of heaven, and let us in.

Sin accounts for the cross.

2. For understanding Regeneration and the New Birth--need of a new heart and nature. If you dislike the New Testament teaching of sin you are not a Christian, for to become one you must see yourself as a sinner and know that only Christ can save you.

3. Vital to understanding True Evangelism-- a man must see his guilt and come to Christ.

4. Vital to true view of holiness--

Far too often there have been people who have been satisfied and smug because they are not guilty of certain things-- adultery, for example--and therefore think they are alright

Not only a man's deeds, but his desires; not only must we not commit, but we must not covet.

5. Enables us to realize the greatness of God's love for us.

I. JESUS' DIAGNOSIS OF SIN.

1. The Depth or the Power of Sin--verse 28

(1) Sin is not merely a matter of actions and of deeds; it is something in the heart that leads to action. Jesus is not so much concerned with sins, as He is sin. Sins are the symptoms of the heart-disease, Sin. It is the disease that kills.

(2) The sinfulness of sin.

Sin is the terrible thing that deludes us and fools us as to making us quite happy and contented so long as we did not commit the act... But we don't want to do it!"

Adultery in the heart - looks with a microscope for the purpose of, lust.

(2) It is not so much that I do a certain thing; it is what makes me do it, what urges me, that matters.

2. The Subtlety of Sin

Sin is this terrible thing that so deludes and fools us as to make us feel quite happy and contented so long as we did not commit the act. "But why did I want to do it?" is the important question.

3. The Perverting Nature of Sin

"If thy right hand offend thee, cut it off."

Sin is such a devastating and perverting thing that it turns the very instruments that God has given us and were meant to help us, into our enemies.

Instincts, and desires become perverted. Sin twists everything. Sin has perverted man, the crown of God's creation.

4. Sin is destruction.

"Cut it off, and cast it from thee---hell."

The Desire, Sin destroys man; it introduced death into the life of man and into the world; and leads ultimately to hell.

II. THE TREATMENT OF SIN--THE SURGICAL CURE.

Verses 29, 30.

Here Jesus makes a great and surgical demand. He insists that everything which is a cause of, or a seduction to, sin should be completely cut out of life.

At that time people held the belief that the right hand and the right eye were more important than the left. "If the most precious thing you have is the cause of sin, get rid of it. Sin is as important as that in life. However valuable a thing may be to you, if it is going to trap you and cause you to stumble, get rid of it, throw it away.

1. We must realize the horrible consequences of sin.
Leads to hell.

2. We must realize the importance of destiny of the soul.
"It is more profitable for thee." Our Lord says this twice in order to emphasize it. Nothing must be allowed to come between you and your soul's eternal destiny.

It is better to be a cripple in this life than to lose everything in the next. Put your eternal destiny before everything else.

*offend -
foot strike
in a trap -
had the bait
on it -
"anything that
causes man
destruction"*

3-
3.

We must mortify sin--"cut it off."

*deadly, depriving
power*

Romans 8:13; I Cor. 9:27; Col. 3:5

- (1) We must never feed the flesh--Romans 13:14--
There is a fire in you, don't get near gasoline.

Some reading will be done away with--Christ says
it is better to be an Ignoramus than to endanger
your soul--Jokes, bad company. We must avoid every-
thing that tends to tarnish. "Don't lay your head
in Delilah's lap!"

- (2) Restrain the flesh--Paul--"I keep under my body."
Re-enforce the weak spots. The devil hits us in
our weakest places. "Watch and Pray"

- (3) We must realize the great price that was paid to
deliver us from sin.

*1 Cor 6:20 Reflection on
Redemption*

No greater stimulus and incentive in the fight than
this. "Such love demands my soul, my life, my all."

- (4) We need the fulness of the Spirit.
Romans 8:13