

THE BIBLE VIEW

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No “Little” Sin

Bill Brinkworth

For some reason, most have weighted some sins “heavier” than others. A robbery of a million dollars is seen as wicked and terrible, but the theft of a pen from work is barely even thought of as sin. Sin is still sin, no matter how serious we think the iniquity.

There is no “small” sin. We may think one worse than others, but in God’s pure eyes, all sin is wicked. The following five examples show iniquities that we may consider small and insignificant but were very important to God. We would find these acts “small” sins, but they were still serious disobedience to God’s commandments:

- God instructed Moses to speak to the rock so water would come out to quench the thirst of the people of Israel. Even though his anger towards the people may have been his excuse, Moses hit the rock instead of speaking to it. Because of that sin of unbelief and disobedience, the leader was not allowed to go into the Promised Land, to where he worked so hard to lead his people.

Moses’ hitting of the rock was not a “little” sin. It was a serious offense to God and it cost Moses something important to him.

“ ... And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also. And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.” Numbers 20:10-12

- After the Ark of the Covenant was returned to Israel by the Philistine enemy, the men of Bethshemesh violated God’s commandment and paid the consequences. No one was permitted to even touch the golden chest other than certain Levite priests. When it was returned, non-Levites opened the chest, perhaps to see if anything was removed from inside of it. When they did, 50,070 people perished.

No matter what the men’s reasoning, they sinned against God and He was angered. A little “sin” was not taken lightly by God.

“And he smote the men of Bethshemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the LORD, even he smote of the people fifty thousand and threescore and ten men...” I Samuel 6:19

- Another time when the ark was returned to Israel from their enemies, a severe punishment came upon a man named Uzzah. As the ark was being transported back to God’s people, Uzzah put out his hands to steady the golden chest as it wobbled on a cart. Immediately

Uzzah died for his disobedience in touching the ark.

Many would justify Uzzah's action: "If he did not put out his hands, the ark would have been broken." As far as God was concerned, man's excuses did not hide the fact that Uzzah still disobeyed. It was a "big" sin as far as God was concerned.

"... Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God." II Samuel 6:2-7

- Saul lost his position as King over Israel after committing a "small" sin. The king was commanded by God to destroy all the Amalekites: men, women, children, and their belongings. Saul spared the enemy king, Agag, and many of the Amalekites' livestock. Saul's excuse was that they were going to use the cattle in the sacrificial worship of God. The king's justification did not appease God's anger.

"Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not... Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD? For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king." I Samuel 15:3-23

- The early church in Acts was excited and growing. Many of the people in the church were selling some of their possessions and giving the money to the ministry so it could grow. No one was commanded to give. It was something many wanted to do.

Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, also sold a possession they had. However, both lied to the church that they had given all they had made from the sale to the church. They had only provided some of the money. Because of their lie, they died instantly in the church. Their sin of lying angered God.

"But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. ... Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost:..." Acts 5:1-10

As these examples illustrate, all sin is a serious matter to God. No matter what the justification of the deed or the intent, a violation of God's commandment is a sin.

Those in the examples did not escape the wrath of God when they sinned against a Holy God. We will not evade God's anger, even if we think it is a "small" sin. None of our sin is taken lightly by our holy God.

"He that falls into sin is a man; that grieves at it, is a saint; that boasteth of it, is of the devil." — Fuller

The Difference between Sin and Sins

Author Unknown

Sin is character;
Sins are conduct.
Sin is the center;
Sins are the circumference.
Sin is the source of which
Sins are the secretion.
Sin is the root;
Sins the fruit.
Sin is the producer;
Sins the product.

Sins is the old nature;
Sins are its manifestation.
Sin is the sire;
Sins its off-spring.
Sin is one single act;
Sins are many sinful acts.
Sin is the fountain;
Sins its flow.

“No sin is small, as no grain of sand is small in the mechanism of a watch.”

— D. L. Moody. ”

God’s Way to Heaven

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God’s way to Heaven is very clear and simple. It is found all through the Bible. Here is how the book of Romans explains it:

- All are not right with God because of their sin.
“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.” Romans 3:10
“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” Romans 3:23
- There is a price that must be paid for our sin.
“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23
“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:” Romans 5:12
- The death of God’s only son, Jesus, is the only thing that can be payment for our sin!
“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8
- If one accepts and trusts only Christ’s finished work on the Cross as payment for their sins, they can be saved from Hell!

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.” Romans 10:9-11

“We are saved by someone doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves.” — *Lester*