

SIN

Text: Genesis 4:3-7

INTRO: Cain sinned by offering a sacrifice not acceptable to the Lord. But there's no way Cain could have realized at that point in time how far away from God that sin would lead him, nor how long that alienation would last, nor how costly it would finally be.

Consider with me...

I. SIN TAKES US FARTHER THAN WE INTEND TO GO.

- A. At the time Cain decided to offer the sacrifice of his own choosing, he, no doubt, harbored the thought that God would accept his offering. He had no way to know that he would end up envying his brother, hating his brother, murdering his brother, lying about his brother, etc.
- B. When David looked from his roof-top balcony & saw Bathsheba bathing, he lusted for her. But he had no way of knowing that his lust would lead to adultery, adultery to murder, etc. 2 Samuel 11.
- C. Chances are that most of us can reflect on situations in our own lives that exemplify this same principle. Sin often takes a person much farther than he ever intended to go

II. SIN KEEPS US LONGER THAN WE INTEND TO STAY

- A. Cain had no intentions of alienating himself from God & staying in that condition. Had he intended to cease to have a relationship with God, he probably would not have offered any sacrifice at all.
- B. When Lot's wife disobeyed God's command about looking back as she left Sodom, most likely she only intended to linger for a moment in her disobedience, Gen. 19:17, 26 but she was there for a long time. Just one last look
- C. Again, many of us can probably identify with this principle. Often, once we have let our guard down & allowed ourselves to engage in the practice of sin, it becomes more & more difficult to repent & return to God.

III. SIN COSTS US MORE THAN WE CAN AFFORD TO PAY

- A. READ GENESIS 4:11-14.
- B. When Jeroboam's son became sick, he had his wife disguise herself & go to a prophet at Shiloh.

READ 1 KINGS 14:7-14

- C. When Moses in anger against the rebellious Jews disobeyed God's instructions at Kadesh, there's no way he could

have realized the price he would have to pay.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses & Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them. (Num. 20:12).

- D. When the Jewish nation disregarded the O.T. prophets, & rejected Jesus Christ, they just could not realize the far-reaching consequences of that rejection.

READ LUKE 19:41-44

- E. Uzzah & the ark, 2 Sam. 6:7; Ananias & Sapphira & their lie, Acts 5; Herod Agrippa's allowing folks to go on believing he was a god, Acts 12, etc.
- F. Even sins that were forgiven, like those of David & Moses, were very costly. David lost 3 sons & the privilege of building the temple. Moses stood on Mt. Pisgah & looked over into the land he had worked for 40 long hard years to enter, then died without setting foot anywhere in the land of promise.
- G. We must, we must learn from these & other Bible characters that we cannot afford to go on living in sin, else we too will pay a price we really cannot afford to pay.

CONCLUSION: If we will allow Him, if we will co-operate, Jesus has paid the awful price for our sins. READ HEBREWS 9:11-15.

He died for the remission of our sins, Matt. 26:28. As we come to believe that truth, we need to respond to His sacrifice by repenting & being baptized for the remission of our sins, Acts 2:38. If we do this, we will be accepted. But if not, sin, like a wild beast, lies at our door & sooner or later, will devour & destroy us.

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, August 20, 1995

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, July 27, 1997