



Dealing With Sin

Saturday, 9/5 at 4:00 | Sunday, 9/6 at 9:00

14th Sunday after Pentecost / 13th Sunday after Trinity – 2020

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: We have all sinned, so we all deserve ☹️physical death and ☹️eternal punishment. However, God has provided one way of escape for everyone – *through Jesus’ sinless living and sacrificial dying!*

For all who *know Jesus as Savior*, *sin is still is very serious matter*, so in today’s gospel reading, Jesus will ▶identify sin and ▶show us how to deal with sin for our eternal benefit!

1. **Be Humble:** Jesus’ disciples had been arguing *among themselves* about who was the greatest (Mark 9:33-34). ¹ **At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”** ² **And He called a child to Himself and set him before them,** ³ **and said, “Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.** ⁴ **Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven** ⁵ **And whoever**

receives one such child in My name receives Me; ⁶ but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble [to fall away, to give up believing], it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷ Woe to the world because of *its* stumbling blocks [the things that cause people to sin]! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe [disaster, calamity] to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!”

- a. V. 1: greatest in the kingdom of heaven: That thought ♦puts the focus on self and ♦is full of pride.
 - b. V. 3: converted and become like children: Moving from trust in self to trust in Jesus; since we are helpless to save ourselves, *God gives us childlike faith in Jesus.*
 - c. V. 4: humbles himself: Trusts in God, not in self.
 - d. V. 6: it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck: Don't pull others into sin and away from Jesus; *tragic death would be better.*
2. **Practice Self-Control**: ⁸ “If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble [fall away, give up believing], **cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire.** ⁹ If your eye causes you to stumble, **pluck it out and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be cast into the fiery hell.**”
- a. V. 8: Heart and foot: When the heart believes in Jesus, and yet the foot wants to run toward sin, *it is essential to immediately call upon the Holy Spirit for help!*
 - b. V. 9: Heart and eye: Sin with an eye is *more dangerous* than with a foot; with a foot we have time to think and repent; with an eye, *the sin is almost immediate!*

3. **Respect the Meek and Lowly:** ¹⁰ “See that you do not **despise** [look down on, think little of] **one of these little ones** [one who seems to be of little importance, is meek or lowly, including children], **for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven.** ¹¹ **For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.**”
- a. V. 10: their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven: The meek, the lowly, or children *may seem insignificant to some*; however, *to God they are very precious!* Therefore, they have each been assigned an important and powerful angel – *one who continually sees the face of God the Father!*
- b. V. 11: the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost: All were lost, so *Jesus came to save everyone* – even ♣the unimportant, ♣the lowly, and ♣children!
4. **Care About Every Person:** ¹² “What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and **go and search for the one that is straying?** ¹³ If it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray. ¹⁴ So it is not **the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones** [one who seems to be of little importance, is meek or lowly, including children] **perish.**”
- a. V. 12: go and search for the one that is straying: For straying people, let us ♣care, ♣plan, and ♣reach out!
- b. V. 14: your Father who is in heaven: Since He values every single person, *let us do the same!*
5. **Call Sinners to Repent:** ¹⁵ “If your brother sins, **go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you**

have won your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

- a. V. 15: show him his fault in private: One to one, show him his fault (his sin) from the Bible (not your opinion).
- b. V. 16: take one or two more with you: If one to one is unsuccessful, *take one or two more with you*.
- c. V. 17: tell it to the church: If two or three are unsuccessful, *tell the body of believers* – so that everyone can ✦pray and ✦call the person to repent.

6. **Bind the Unrepentant; Loose the Repentant:** ¹⁸ Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.”

- a. V. 18: Bind... loose: “...Jesus appoints the members of the church... to bring sinning members to repentance, or to rid themselves of them as members” (Lenski, 704). Bind—to not forgive; loose—to forgive the sin.
- b. V. 19: if two of you agree: Believers ✦discuss, ✦agree, and ✦pray; then say, *not our will, but Yours be done!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, *what tremendous teaching You have given us!* Help us to apply it ✦in our lives and ✦in our church!

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