Sin Repentance and Forgiveness *in Human Interactions*

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What We Will Learn: Basis

- Christ admonishes us through his disciples
- Don’t be a channel for temptation
- Rebuke a person that sins against you
- If a person sins against you and repents
  - Forgive every time
  - Irrespective of frequency
- Luke 17:1–4

Luke 17 (NIV)

1 Jesus said to his disciples: “Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come, but woe to anyone through whom they come.

2 It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble.

Luke 17 (NIV)

3 So watch yourselves.
“If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them.

4 Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying ‘I repent,’ you must forgive them.”

What We Will Learn: Approach

- Channel for temptation
- Rebuking a person for a sin against you
- Seeking Forgiveness
  - If you sin against another person
  - If another person sins against you
- Nature of person-to-person sin
- Luke 17, Mark 7, and other passages

Channel for Temptation

- Person's action causes occurrence of a condition that brings temptation to another
- Person's action→ another person tempted
  - Action directed at the other person
  - Action directed at a third person
  - Action directed at non-human object
- Example: Potiphar's wife
- Channeled temptation to Potiphar

Potiphar's Wife: Channel for Temptation

- Joseph was slave in Potiphar's house
- God blessed Potiphar's household
- Because of Joseph
- Potiphar's wife framed Joseph
- Told her husband Joseph was on to her
- Husband believed and imprisoned Joseph
- Genesis 39:5, 11–12, and 16–20

Genesis 39 (NIV)

5 From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field.

Genesis 39 (NIV)

11 One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside.

12 She caught him by his cloak and said, “Come to bed with me!” But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

Genesis 39 (NIV)

16 She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home.

17 Then she told him this story: “That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me.

18 But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.”

Genesis 39 (NIV)

19 When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, “This is how your slave treated me,” he burned with anger.

20 Joseph’s master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined.

- Potiphar sinned against Joseph
- Fell to temptation channeled through wife

Rebuke

- If a person sins against you, rebuke him/her
- Tell them what they did and why it is a sin
- Be polite but firm
- Sincere and caring
- To communicate and influence
- Don’t “look the other way”
- “…If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them…” [Luke 17:3]

Repentance and Forgiveness

- Forgive him/her
- If he/she repents
- And as often as he/she repents
- Seek forgiveness
  - From a person you sinned against
  - To a person that sinned against you
- Forgiveness requires repentance

Seeking Forgiveness from Another Person

- Go to the person with humility
- Focus on your responsibility
- To break action-reaction cycles
- Acknowledge what you did
- Convey remorse
- And promise of reconciliation
- Ask for forgiveness
- Romans 12:18

Romans 12 (NIV)

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.

18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.

Seeking Forgiveness of Another Person

- Provide opportunity for repentance
- Repentance must be real
- For forgiveness to endure
- Forgiveness brings reconciliation
- Clears the way for interacting with God
- Matthew 5:23–24

Matthew 5 (NIV)

23 “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you,

24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Seeking Forgiveness of Another Person: Joseph's Example

- Joseph lived at home with father, ten senior brothers, and a baby brother
- Senior brothers hated him
- Conspired to kill him on a visit to the field
- Sold him to slavery instead
- Found favor with God in Egypt
- Appointed to high position next to Pharaoh
- Genesis 40–41 [Not read in session]

Joseph's Example cont'd

- Got opportunity to retaliate against brothers
- Sought reconciliation instead
- Tested them to verify their repentance
- Determined they had repented
- Forgave and reconciled with them
- Reconciliation cleared way for grand blessing
- Genesis 42–46 [Not read in session]

Sin Against Another Person

- Defined by Jesus
- In conversation with his disciples
- As what comes out of a person
- That makes him/her unclean
- Evil thoughts (from a person's heart)
- Mark 7:17–23

Mark 7 (NIV)

17 After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable.

18 “Are you so dull?” he asked. “Don’t you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them?

Mark 7 (NIV)

19 For it doesn’t go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body.” (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.)

20 He went on: “What comes out of a person is what defiles them.

Mark 7 (NIV)

21 For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder,

22 adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.

23 All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

Sin Against Another Person

- Jesus defines person-to-person sin
- As proceeds of evil thoughts
- For purpose of satisfying self
- Not representing God in the interaction
- Provided examples
- Not an exhaustive list

Sin Against Another: Christ's Definition

- Sexual immorality [1 Corinthians 7:2–3]
  - But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband.
  - The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband.
- Paul defines sexual immorality:
  having sexual relations with someone that is not your wife or husband

Sin Against Another: Christ's Definition cont'd

- Theft
- Murder
- Adultery

  Voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and someone other than his or her lawful spouse
- Greed

  An inordinate or insatiable longing, especially for wealth, status, and power

Sin Against Another: Christ's Definition cont'd

- Malice

  Desire to inflict injury, harm, or suffering on another, either because of a hostile impulse or out of deep-seated meanness

- Deceit

  Concealment or distortion of the truth for the purpose of misleading

Sin Against Another: Christ's Definition cont'd

- Lewdness

  Inclined to, characterized by, or inciting to lust or lechery; lascivious

- Envy

  A feeling of discontent or covetousness with regard to another's advantages, success, possessions, etc.

Sin Against Another: Christ's Definition cont'd

- Slander

  A false and malicious statement designed to injure the reputation of someone or something

- Arrogance

  Offensive display of superiority or self-importance; overbearing pride

- Folly

  The state or quality of being foolish; lack of understanding or sense

What We Learned

- To understand Christ's admonition on sins against other persons
- Examined the meaning of
- Being a channel for temptation
- Rebuking a person that sins against you
- Repentance and forgiveness
- Importance of forgiveness
- List of example person-to-person sins