**Generic Thoughts on Sin**

**Introduction**

Today we will discuss the topic of sin. There is much we could say about specific sins, but today I want us to just look briefly at the topic of sin and look at how we respond to it and how we seek to cover it up, but are not successful at it.

**1. Sin is Ugly**

Ezekiel 16; 23

2 Peter 2:20-22

In Ezekiel 16 and 23 the passages picture God’s people as being greatly blessed by God only for them to turn their backs on Him. Their unfaithfulness is pictured as a harlot who throws herself at anyone who is willing to have her. Eventually God hands her over to judgment which is depicted as her lying naked in a field with all her possession gone.

Peter writes about the person who comes to the Lord but shortly after goes back into their old way of life. He gives the imagery of a dog returning to the vomit or pig going back to roll in the mud and filth they are used to.

These are disgusting images and they are meant to be because they are depicting something that is disgusting! The are meant to revolt us and turn our stomach because sin is ugly. The ultimate example of that is the cross of Christ.

**2. Sin is Embarrassing**

* Genesis 18:9-15
* 2 Kings 5:20-27

Have you ever seen a news report where someone is being walked into a prison or out of a courtroom and they have to walk in front of the cameras for at least a few seconds? Have you ever noticed that on almost ever occasion the person who is being accused tries to cover their face in some way? Why? Because sin is embarrassing!

In Genesis 18 God takes on human form with two angels and talks to Abraham. God has been promising Abraham and Sarah a son for some time now but they still don’t have one. But for the first time God gives a specific time: this time next year (Gen. 18:10). The only problem is that from a human standpoint that is impossible (Gen. 18:11). Sarah laughs to herself and doubts the promise of God (Gen. 18:12). The Lord asks why she laughs and she denied it (Gen. 18:13-15). Why? Because she was embarrassed!

2 Kings 5 tells the story of Naaman being cured of his leprosy by God. Elisha will not accept any gifts Naaman offers but Elisha’s servant, Gehazi, really wants some of that money and clothing. He runs Naaman down and gets some (2 Kgs 5:20-23). Gehazi thinks he has done this secretly but the Lord revealed to Elisha what he had done. Gehazi denies the accusation (2 Kgs 5:25).

Sin brings embarrassment which causes the sinner to deny their deeds until it is painfully obvious. If sin is so embarrassing why do we engage in it? Generally, because we think we will get away with it.

**3. Sin enslaves us**

* John 8:34
* Titus 3:3
* 2 Peter 2:19

We often picture sin as something we do when we want to and engaging in a certain activity is freeing! We can do what we want and live anyway we want! We can stop our sin anytime we want but we just don’t want to right now. But the Bible teaches that sin enslaves us to the devil!

**4. Sin leads to Destruction**

* Proverbs 7:24-27; 9:18
* Romans 1:32; 6:23
* James 1:13-15

**5. We are all Guilty of Sin**

* 1 Kings 8:46
* Psalm 143:2
* Ecclesiastes 7:20
* Romans 3:9-23
* 1 Jn. 1:8

There is no way to escape or deny it, we are all guilty of sin! We have all engaged in this ugly action, been embarrassed by our actions, enslaved and on the path to death.

**People Try All Kinds of Things to Deal with Sin**

* Time Cannot Cover Sin

We like to sweep things under the rug and let time pass hoping it will heal all the mistakes we have made and the sin we engaged in will simply be forgotten. Something happened so long ago does it really matter anymore? Others might forget but God does not forget! There is no statue of limitation on sin.

* Space Does Not Cover Sin

Sometimes we take the approach of getting away from somewhere and starting over. Then we will go to a place where no one knows me and does not know my sins. We will start over and live a new life. But traveling a great distance does not negate sin.

* Making Sure our Good Deeds are more than our Bad Deeds does not make up for Sin
  + I have changed and volunteer in my community now
  + I have paid my debt to society and am giving back
  + Look at all the good I have done!
  + I have made some mistakes, but I have tried to give back
  + Think God is impressed with our good activities?

**ONLY God can deal with sin**

* Jesus alone deals with sin (Acts 10:43; 1 John 2:1-2)
* For everyone (John 3:16)
* Even the worst of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15)