

Sin Tax 4 - Consequences

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***Today we're finishing up our series Sin Tax.

And in this series we're exploring the concept that just as legislators have tried to place a cost to society on certain behaviors like smoking cigarettes or drinking alcohol by taxing them, Sin has a cost. And the wages of sin, according to scripture, is death. But how does that work? Death is pretty heavy duty, and for all of us in this room and listening to my voice, I have sinned, but yet I'm still alive. So we began to explore the true cost of sin.

***So far in this series we've discussed Adam and Eve's original sin and how it has affected us. We saw that just how that young man in the movie clip might have turned a simple curiosity about the cheese into a deadly game, Adam and Eve's curiosity led to the entry of sin into our world. We also discovered that their original sin led to 3 different ways of incorrectly dealing with sin in the church.

***They were the blow it offs,
***the work it offs and
***the keep it offs.

We also saw through looking at Adam and Eve's story the effects of sin on us. We found that:

- ***1. Sin changes everything
- ***2. Sin steals our innocence.
- ***3. Sin ruins our intimacy with God
- ***4. Sin ruins our relationships
- ***5. Sin ruins our enjoyment of God's gifts.

We've talked about temptation and how the 3 temptations of Jesus and that if you look at them on the surface, they don't seem to really relate to us but as we unpacked them we found that they are foundational to the temptations that we experience on a daily basis.

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We found those to really be

- ***1. The temptation to meet a legitimate need in an illegitimate way.
- ***2. The temptation to try to leverage and use God for our own ends
- ***3. The temptation to try to take the short cut by doing the right thing the wrong way.

***And that most temptation, when you boil it down to its foundational level, is about whether or not I trust God.

Today we're going to finish up our series by looking at the concept consequences.

Turn with me in your bible to Joshua 7

Most of us don't really have a clear understanding of the consequence of our sin, especially in the area of Grace and forgiveness.

Because most of us have grown up thinking that when God forgives us, He throws our sin as far as the east is from the west into the sea of forgetfulness where He remembers it no more. And we've taken these concepts and assigned them human emotion and intellect and have decided that it's easy to fool God. 1 John 1:9

And because of these scriptures, we develop a belief system, whether we intended to or not, that basically treats sin like a bucket. And Sunday becomes the day that I empty my bucket, and Mon – Sat are used to fill it back up again.

And because of these misunderstandings and misinterpretations of scripture, we fail to see that our sin has consequences. And, as we'll see, not just to us, but also, and most importantly, to the people around us.

Joshua 7

The Story of Achan

The people of Israel have crossed over the Jordan River and have just conquered the city of Jericho miraculously. Everybody's excited and now they are moving to

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the next place which is Ai, but Joshua doesn't know something that has occurred with his people.

2 Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and said to them, "Go up and spy out the land." So the men went up and spied out Ai.

3 They returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not let all the people go up; only about two or three thousand men need go up to Ai; do not make all the people toil up there, for they are few."

4 So about three thousand men from the people went up there, but they fled from the men of Ai.

5 The men of Ai struck down about thirty-six of their men, and pursued them from the gate as far as Shebarim and struck them down on the descent, so the hearts of the people melted and became as water.

6 Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD until the evening, both he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads.

7 Joshua said, "Alas, O Lord GOD, why did You ever bring this people over the Jordan, only to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? If only we had been willing to dwell beyond the Jordan!

8 "O Lord, what can I say since Israel has turned their back before their enemies?

9 "For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it, and they will surround us and cut off our name from the earth. And what will You do for Your great name?"

And here's Joshua, thinking that he has to remind God of why they are there.

As if God needs to be reminded of ANYTHING??

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10 So the LORD said to Joshua, "Rise up! Why is it that you have fallen on your face?"

11 "Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. And they have even taken some of the things under the ban and have both stolen and deceived. Moreover, they have also put them among their own things.

12 "Therefore the sons of Israel cannot stand before their enemies; they turn their backs before their enemies, for they have become accursed. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy the things under the ban from your midst.

13 "Rise up! Consecrate the people and say, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, for thus the LORD, the God of Israel, has said, "There are things under the ban in your midst, O Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you have removed the things under the ban from your midst."

And if Joshua were honest, he's probably say to God, well I'm down here blaming you for everything that has gone wrong.

And for a lot of us today God is saying this same thing to us! Why are you praying?

It's time for action not prayer.

When is it time not to pray?

If God has addressed it in His word.

If you've behaved your way into something you're trying to pray your way out of.

V11 Israel has sinned... Here we see a principle that we can find throughout scripture, that the entire nation of Israel is held accountable for one man's sin.

Our natural reaction to this is, "that's not fair!" And while it isn't fair, it's still true.

Individual sin in the context of a community of believers whether it's a family, a church, or just a small group of believers affects the whole community, not just the individual.

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This isn't fair. Achan just had a momentary lapse of judgment. Can't God just overlook this little thing, because in the grand scheme of things it's not really that big of a deal.

This is why, in the context of true community, it is MANDATORY not optional, to confront known sin in your brother or sister.

There are ways to do this biblically and there are ways to do this sinfully.

Today I'm giving you permission. I'm going to name names. I'm going to call some folks out. I'm going to give you permission to deal with the sin that has come into the church. You ready? Here we go...

The names are ... YOU and ME.

***Video Clip of Grace

Put the Sin Tax logo back up from the ppt (1st slide)

Alter call