

What Sin Will Do

Introduction. When God gave us the Old Testament, He knew what He was doing (Romans 15:4). We need simple sermons about sin because we desperately need to be smarter about sin. Part of being smart is understanding how sin operates. The Bible warns that our hearts can become hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:12-13). Sin promises pleasure while hiding its true potential for pain and disaster.

The deceitful nature of sin is illustrated very well in the downfall of Samson in Judges 16. Samson was the world's strongest man and a judge over Israel. He was raised to deliver the children of Israel from their Philistine oppressors. This man's strength and faith earned him a spot in infamy (Hebrews 11:32). Unfortunately, his actions are a stark reminder of what sin can do if we fall to it.

I. ***It Will Always Take You Farther Than You Wanted To Go***

- A. Samson was tempted (vss. 4-20). The lords of the Philistines pressured Delilah into discovering Samson's great strength. Four times she tempted Samson into revealing his secret strength. Finally, he gave in and told Delilah the reason he was so strong. When she found out, she told the Philistines and they caused Samson to lose his strength.
- B. The point of sin is to tempt you beyond the point of your strength (cf. Matthew 4:1-11). Sin will push you beyond the point of a "good time." The further Satan can bury you in sin, the better it is for him (James 1:13-16).
- C. Sin is never harmless. If given the chance, sin will pull you in, making the second sin easier than the first. Once your conscience has been violated, it ceases to work as effectively as it once did (1 Timothy 4:2). You will soon find yourself more involved in sin, and further away from God, than you ever thought possible.
 1. Former Arkansas coach Bobby Petrino began an affair with a coworker that cost him his job in April 2012 with a kiss over lunch (cf. Proverbs 7:6-23).
 2. Will it be an innocent conversation? Will it be an innocuous online chat? Will it be a seemingly harmless, brief touch?
- D. Samson did not want to lose his strength, but that is exactly what happened because he continued to court sin and temptation. When you continue in sin, you are subject to consequences which sometimes can never be altered. In hindsight, everyone would have acted differently, but the tragedy of sin is that it always pushes farther than we want.

II. ***It Will Always Keep You Longer Than You Wanted To Stay***

- A. Samson was in bondage (vs. 21). He probably had a million regrets as he sat there blind and in prison. Not only did he lose his sight and was in prison, but he was also reduced to humiliating slave labor.
- B. Drug addicts and alcoholics may have only been looking for a temporary “pick-up,” but they ended up spending most of their lives addicted to deadly chemicals. Satan will always want to keep you as long as he can.
- C. No one is a “casual” sinner. Sin has the power to enslave men (John 8:34), and all men are slaves to what they obey: either of sin leading to death or of obedience leading to righteousness (Romans 6:16). Sin binds itself to us and prevents us from doing God’s will (Acts 8:23; Hebrews 2:14-15; cf. 2 Peter 2:19). Some atheists proudly proclaim that they are “free from the shackles of religion,” but in reality they choose to be in spiritual blindness and enslaved to error and sin. In Jesus Christ, you can put this behind you and be free (Luke 4:18; John 8:36; Acts 26:16-18).

III. ***It Will Always Cost You More Than You Wanted To Pay***

- A. Samson was dying (vss. 28-30). Who would have ever imagined the world’s strongest man killing himself along with the Philistines? A man whose future seemed brighter than the stars was brought down to a humiliating level.
- B. People who get mixed up with drugs often pay for their addiction with their lives. People who commit adultery often pay by losing their family and all those who ever cared anything about them. People who dress immodestly or participate in dancing or smoking often tarnish their character and destroy their influence. That price is way too high.
- C. Every time you walk out of this building without obeying the gospel, or repenting of the sins to which you succumb, you have bet your life in eternity on the outcome. We think we can sin and not pay the price, but we cannot escape if we neglect salvation in Christ (Hebrews 2:1-4).
- D. Advertisers will sometimes entice customers by offering a “Buy Now/ Pay Later” plan. By pushing the payment due date back far enough, salesmen try to get excited consumers to lose sight of the price that has to be paid and commit themselves to making a big purchase. The devil uses a similar approach when he tries to convince you to enjoy the pleasures of sin without paying a price.
 - 1. We look all around us and see people living in sin without appearing to face any consequences. But the reality is that there is always a price to pay (Romans 6:23).

2. We may not suffer immediately because of our sins, but our sins will catch up with us (Numbers 32:23). Payment will come due, and it will always cost us more than we were willing to pay.
3. Are you willing to pay that price? Are you willing to burn in the lake of fire and brimstone, being tormented forever for sin (Revelation 14:9-11; Revelation 21:8)?

Conclusion. Christians and others in the world are far too naive about sin. They never consider the effects of sin: alienation from God, toil and sorrow, and physical illness and death. What will you do about sin? Are you willing to confess it, hate it, put it away, and resist it? God will help you when you are tempted (1 Corinthians 10:12-13).

This lesson exposed some of what sin will do and you can probably see it in the people you know. Samson was in a position to teach us a lot about sin and judgment. Guard yourself from sin and have the resolve to come back to God today if that is your need.