

**Intro:**

“When one surveys the teaching of our Lord concerning sin, at least two things stand out. One is the sheer number of references He made to the subject, both in His direct teaching as well as in His parables. In spite of this, we usually do not think of sin as one of Christ’s principal emphases. Yet it was. Second, His teaching on sin was very specific, as will be seen as the teaching is developed. In other words, on this subject of sin Christ had a lot to say, and He said it in specific detail.”<sup>1</sup>

**I. Some specific sins**

## A. Sacrilege (Mk 11.15-18)

Sacrilege = violating the temple that was consecrated to God and showing irreverence toward hallowed things *cf.* Jn 2.12-16

## B. Hypocrisy (Mt 23.1-36)

1. They did not practice what they preached (1-4).
2. They sought to exalt themselves (5-12).
3. They escaped performing their oaths (16-22).
4. They scrupulously tithed but neglected to promote justice (v. 23).
5. Outwardly they appeared to be righteous, but inwardly they were hypocrites (25).

## C. Covetousness (Lk 12.15)

## D. Blasphemy (Mt 12.22-37)

## E. Transgressing the Law (Mt 15.3-6)

“To avoid having to care for aged parents, the scribes devised a way to dedicate the money that would have been used for that purpose to the temple, eventually to receive it back. This, the Lord said, was a direct violation of the commandment to honor parents.”

## F. Pride (Mt 20.20-28; Lk 14.7-11)

## G. Being a Stumbling Block (Mt 18.6)

## H. Disloyalty (Mt 8.19-22)

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<sup>1</sup> Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *Basic Theology : A Popular Systemic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth*, 245 (Chicago, Ill.: Moody Press, 1999).

- I. Immorality (Mt 5.27-32)
- J. Fruitlessness (Jn 15.16)
- K. Anger (Mt 5.22)
- L. Sins of Speech (Mt 5.33-37; 12.36)
- M. Showing Off (Mt 6.1-18)
- N. Lack of Faith (Mt 6.25)
- O. Irresponsible Stewardship (Mt 25.14-30; Lk 19.11-27)
- P. Prayerlessness (Lk 18.1-8)

## II. Some categories of sin

- A. Violations of the Mosaic Law (Mk 7.9-13)
  - 1. 'Corban' a technicality for failing to perform covenant obligations
  - 2. Could declare amount needed to support his parents as 'Corban' - *i.e.*, 'devoted' as in 'devoted to God'
  - 3. Could then use funds for himself and not take care of parents
- B. Open Sins (Mt 7.1-5; Jn 19.11; Mt 12.22-37, 21.33-46)
  - 1. All sins sinful, but not all of equal magnitude
    - a. Proof: speck and log (Mt 7.1-5)
    - b. Proof: Caiaphas' sin (Jn 19.11).
  - 2. Examples:
    - a. Sins of speech, especially those that show defiance of Christ's claims (Mt 12.22-37)
    - b. Open opposition and rejection of God's messengers (Mt 21.33-46).
- C. Wrong Inward Attitudes (Lk 12.13-15; Mt 20.20-22)
- D. Leaven
  - 1. *Of the Pharisees* (Mt 5.20, 9.14, 23.2; Lk 18.11-12 vs. Mt 23.14, 26, 29; Mk 8.15; Lk 12.1)
    - a. Outward righteousness
    - b. Inward uncleanness

“The leaven of the Pharisees was externalism. Though outwardly they were righteous (Mt 5.20), knowledgeable about the Scriptures (23.2), tithers (Lk 18.12), those who fasted (Mt 9.14) and prayed (Lk 18.11), inwardly they were unclean, and our Lord denounced their leaven of hypocrisy (Mt 23.14, 26, 29; Mk 8.15; Lk 12.1).”<sup>2</sup>

## 2. *Of the Sadducees* (Mt 16.6)

- a. False doctrine
- b. Materialism - did not believe in what they could not see

“Their leaven was spreading false doctrine. Their beliefs were rooted in the senses; therefore, they did not believe in the existence of angels or in resurrection. Our Lord did not denounce this as often, for false teaching is in itself something more apparent because it is more difficult to hide (Mt 16.6).”<sup>3</sup>

## 3. *Of the Herodians* (Mk 8.15)

- a. Secularism
- b. Worldliness

“Their leaven was secularism and worldliness. As a party they supported Herod and the Roman rule that gave him his power. Thus they sought to use worldly power to promote ‘spiritual’ ends, and Christ warned against this (Mk 8.15).”<sup>4</sup>

“These same sins—externalism, false doctrine, and worldly methods—are all too apparent in some groups today. And our Lord’s warning against them is relevant.”<sup>5</sup>

### III. Some Sources Of Sin

#### A. Satan (Lk 10.18; Jn 12.31; Mt 12.26; Jn 8.44; Mt 13.19, 39)

1. Believed in the reality of Satan (Lk 10.18)
2. Acknowledged Satan as ruler of this world (Jn 12.31)

<sup>2</sup> Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, p. 248.

<sup>3</sup> Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, p. 248.

<sup>4</sup> Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, p. 248.

<sup>5</sup> Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, p. 248.

3. Acknowledged Satan as head of his own kingdom (Mt 12.26)
4. Called Satan
  - a. The father of rebellious people and of lies (Jn 8.44)
  - b. The evil one who opposes the reception of the Gospel (Mt 13.19)
  - c. The enemy who sows tares in the world (Mt 13.39)

**B. The World (Jn 15.18-19)**

1. Opposes God's people
2. Promotes Satan's purpose

**C. The Heart (Mt 15.19)**

## **IV. Some Consequences Of Sin**

**A. It Affects Destiny**

1. Sin causes people to be lost (Mt 18.11; Lk 15.4, 8, 24)
2. Causes people to perish (Jn 3.16)
3. Brings people into judgment (Lk 12.20)

**B. It Affects the Will**

1. Pharisees slaves to the desires of the devil (Jn 8.44)
2. Jesus came to free the captives (Lk 4.18)

Apparently a reference to spiritual captivity, since the Lord did not effect the release of those who were jailed. (cf. John the Baptist.)

**C. It Affects the Body (Jn 9.3, 5.14; Mt 8.16-17)**

1. Some sickness not caused by sin (Jn 9.3)
2. Some sickness is caused by sin (Jn 5.14; Mt 8.16-17)

**D. It Affects Others**

1. Sins of the scribes affected widows (Lk 20.46-47)
2. Sin of the prodigal son affected his father (Lk 15.20).

No sin is in isolation.

## V. The Forgiveness of Sin

A. The Basis for Forgiveness (Jn 1.29; Mt 20.28; 26.28)

1. John the Baptist pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (Jn 1.29)
2. The Lord Himself declared that His death was the basis for forgiveness (Mt 20.28; 26.28).

B. The Ramification of Forgiveness (Mt 6.14-15; 18.21-35; Lk 17.3-4)

“Forgiven people should forgive others.”

## VI. The Eschatology of Sin

*Olivet Discourse proclaimed outworking of sin (Mt 24.1-28).*

A. In International Affairs (6-7)

B. In Personal Affairs – sin will cause people to betray one another and to hate one another (10, 12)

C. In Spiritual Affairs

1. False religious leaders will deceive people (5, 11, 24)
2. Antichrist will bring false religion to its highest level (15-21)

## Conclusion:

“Our Lord’s teaching covered many aspects of sin emphasizing both the variety and specifics of sin. He always underscored man’s personal responsibility for sin, and His teaching was laced with the practical ramifications of sin.”<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, p. 251.