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WHAT SHALL WE DO ABOUT SIN?

Teaching Notes by Joyce Meyer

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WHAT SHALL WE DO ABOUT SIN?

I. The Wages Of Sin Is Death!

A. **Romans 6:23** (KJV) – *For the wages of sin is death . . .*

1. **Sin** – (defined/Greek) – *Hamartia* is literally a missing of the mark. It is the most comprehensive term for moral obliquity [oblique means deviating from a right line]. Sin is deviation from moral rectitude, an organized power working through the members of the body. Though the seat of sin is in the will, the body is the organic instrument. Through the holiness of the law, sin was designed to be manifested to the conscience. Sin is an act of disobedience to divine law; a trespass. Other terms include: DISOBEDIENCE, ERROR, FAULT, INIQUITY, TRANSGRESSION, and UNGODLINESS.

B. **Romans 8:6** – Death comprises all the **miseries** arising from sin.

C. There are various types of sin. **Matthew 12:31** speaks of all manner of sin being forgiven except blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

D. **Romans 14:23** – Whatever is not of faith is sin.

1. Fear
2. Worry
3. All the “I know I *should*’s” and “I know I *shouldn*’t’s”
 - a. We are actually saying, “I don’t have faith that this is correct, but I am going to do it anyway.”

b. Example: I know I shouldn't eat this. I know I should stay home today and clean my house and not go to lunch with my friends. I know I shouldn't buy this. I know I shouldn't say this. I know I should apologize – BUT!

E. Sins of omission

1. **James 4:17** – *So any person who knows what is right to do but does not do it, to him it is sin.*

F. **I Corinthians 3:16-17** – Sins against our bodies, which are temples of the Holy Spirit

G. Sins of commission are acts committed in thought, word, or deed that are breaking any of the commandments of God.

H. **I Timothy 1:13** – Sins of ignorance

1. Paul received mercy from God, even though he persecuted the church and blasphemed, because he acted out of ignorance in unbelief.

2. Paul was very zealous for God, a sincere Pharisee who was sincerely wrong. He was trying to serve God avidly through his own works, and thought anyone who did not do it his way was wrong and needed to be dealt with.

I. “Getting-in-the-flesh” sins are things that are not premeditated, intentional sins. For example: flare-ups of anger, impatience, or discouragement (remember, anything not of faith is sin); and hasty words that wound.

1. This is probably the area that sincere, committed believers deal with most frequently.

2. I must emphasize **sincere** and **committed** because luke-warm believers, pew sitters, and obligatory church attendees usually live in a great deal of sin – which they are justifying, and that causes them to live in self-deception.

- J. Premeditated, intentional sin
 - 1. **Romans 1:18-25** – People who knew the truth, but chose to live in sin
 - 2. **I John 3:1-10** clearly shows that anyone born of God cannot deliberately, knowingly, and habitually practice sin – God’s nature abides in him, and he cannot habitually remain in sin.

II. We Must Face Sin And Call It What It Is!

- A. **I John 1:9-10** – We must admit and confess our sins. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us.
- B. **John 8:31-32** – Continue in My Word; and you will know the Truth, and the Truth – if faced and accepted – will set you free.
- C. **John 16:7-13** – When the Holy Spirit comes, He will guide you into all Truth.
 - 1. The Holy Spirit continually and progressively leads us out of bondage into liberty by leading us out of deception into Truth.
- D. **Truth** (defined/Vine’s/Greek) – Real, ideal, genuine; unconcealed, manifest; conforming to reality, the reality of the thing, the reality lying at the basis of an appearance

JM: The way things really are – not the way they seem or appear.

- 1. What a person appears to be is not necessarily what they are really like. People pretend.
- 2. **John 14:6** – Jesus said, “I am the Truth.” He was and is genuine, the real thing, always did what He said, and never taught others to do something without doing it Himself.

3. Many people don't know how to be real and face truth. The world is filled with deception to the point that for many it has become a lifestyle.

John 18:37b-38a – *This is why I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the Truth. Everyone who is of the Truth [who is a friend of the Truth, who belongs to the Truth] hears and listens to My voice.*
PILATE SAID TO HIM, WHAT IS TRUTH?

4. **Genesis 3:7-13** – When Adam and Eve sinned, they tried to hide and cover it up. God immediately brought out into the open what they had done.
5. **Psalm 139:12** – *Even the darkness hides nothing from You . . .*

We can think we are hiding in the darkness of sin,
but God knows!

- E. **Ephesians 4:15** – . . . *let our lives lovingly express truth [in all things, speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly]. Enfolded in love, let us grow up in every way and in all things into Him Who is the Head, [even] Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).*

1. We cannot grow up without truth.

- F. Jesus is the Truth, and He comes into our lives to bring truth.

1. Many are offended by the truth when they should be facing it.
2. **Matthew 15:1-12** – The Pharisees were accusing Jesus' disciples of sin but were not facing their own. Jesus confronted them, and they were offended.

- G. **John 4:23-24** – He is seeking worshipers who will worship Him in spirit and truth.

1. **Worshippers** are real, genuine, sincere people who love Jesus and are willing to face the truth about themselves and where they are in order to get to where they need to be.
- H. **Matthew 11:6-10** – Jesus told them that John was sent preaching hard truth in order to prepare the way for Him to move in their lives.
1. Truth is not soft and easy.
 2. **TRUTH HURTS BEFORE IT HELPS!!**

III. The Justification Of Sin

- A. Sin must be faced – not justified by excuses. We must not call it anything other than what it is.
- B. Only Christ can justify us – He is our justification. When we try to justify what our conscience condemns, we are descending into self-deception that only gets deeper the longer it lasts.
- C. **James 1:21-22** – Get rid of sin, be doers of the Word, and don't deceive yourself by reasoning.
1. When others should do what the Word says, but there is a reason why it is all right for US not to, **we are deceived!**
 2. Examples:
 - a. A person believes in tithing – but does not tithe – because, because, and because.
 - b. Share about the couple we were considering to hire until we discovered they had not been faithful in tithing for many years. They said they needed teaching about tithing; and yet, they had been in the charismatic church for eighteen years. They did not need teaching; they needed obedience.

- c. A person believes he should keep his commitments – but rarely keeps them – because, because, and because.

- D. **Jeremiah 17:9** – *The heart is deceitful above all things, and it is exceedingly perverse and corrupt and severely, mortally sick! Who can know it [perceive, understand, be acquainted with his own heart and mind]?*
 - 1. Must understand how easy it is for people to deceive their own selves
 - 2. If you think you cannot be deceived, you are already deceived.

- E. **Isaiah 44:20** – *That kind of man feeds on ashes [and finds his satisfaction in ashes]! A deluded mind has led him astray, so that he cannot release and save himself, or asks, Is not [this thing I am holding] in my right hand a lie?*

- F. Are you telling yourself lies and believing them?
 - 1. Deception means to believe a lie.
 - 2. When others lie to us and we trust and believe them, we are appalled when we discover they have deceived us. It is a deeper deception one lives in when he is self-deceived.

- G. End-Time Warning!!
 - 1. Sign of the end – Deception will be rampant on the earth.
 - 2. **Matthew 24:24** – Many false prophets will arise to deceive and lead many astray.
 - 3. Today, there are also more excuses, reasoning out of wrong behavior, justification of sin (often referred to as human rights) than any other time in history.

When people do not live by Truth (biblical standards), everything in society begins to go haywire!!

Any nation will decline into darkness, degradation, and eventually poverty when it turns from God and His ways.

Making our own rules to fit our own desires and having a seared conscience is dangerous beyond understanding. People must get back to following their hearts, not their heads!

Our society is already on a downhill decline. The down button on the elevator has already been pushed. Only widespread, sincere repentance by facing truth can turn things around.

4. **II Chronicles 7:14** – *If My people, who are called by My name, shall humble themselves, pray, seek, crave, and require of necessity My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land.*

H. Do you have a bag of excuses?

1. I act badly because I was abused.
2. I cannot submit to authority because I had someone in authority take advantage of me – and I just cannot trust people.
3. I have a bad temper because I am Irish.
4. I am just like my parents, and they both acted this way.
5. I don't feel good today.
6. I had a bad day at the office.
7. This is just a weak area for me.
8. You don't act any better than I do.

9. Everyone else does it.
 10. I am just not ready to deal with this yet.
 11. It is too hard.
 12. I am confused; I just don't understand.
 13. Nobody understands me – you just do not understand what I have been through!
 14. I am afraid!
- I. We must have an aggressive attitude against sin.
1. **Romans: Chapter 6** – This entire chapter clearly shows the attitude that we must have toward sin.

NOTE: (Use Amplified and Message translations.)

2. **I Peter 4:1** – Have an aggressive attitude toward sin that says, “I will suffer in the flesh rather than live in sin.”
3. **Hebrews 12:1** – Strip off and throw aside every encumbrance (weight) and sin.

Example: Note that the cloud of witnesses are those who have borne testimony to the Truth. They walked in truth and saw its results. **They are witnesses!**

IV. Take Your Sin To Jesus With Sincere Repentance.

- A. **Psalms 85:10** – Mercy and truth have met together.
 1. God desires to give us mercy but cannot until we face truth.
- B. **I John 1:9** – We are to admit our sins and CONFESS them.

C. Confession and repentance are two different things but should operate together.

1. Confession (defined/Vine's/Greek) – *Homologeō* literally means “to speak the same thing as.”

Example: When I confess my sin, I speak the same thing out of my mouth that God is speaking in my heart; or I get in agreement with Him in my heart. To assent, accord, agree with; to confess, declare, admit; to confess by way of admitting oneself guilty of what one is accused of, the result of inward conviction; to declare openly by way of speaking out freely, such confession being the effect of deep conviction of facts; confession by acknowledgement of the truth.

2. Repentance (defined/Vine's/Greek) – To perceive afterwards.

- a. Example: One cannot repent until after they have done wrong or considered doing it. The act is committed in thought or deed and then perceived as wrong.

Repentance means “change” – to “change” one’s mind or purpose. In the New Testament, it always involves a change for the better, an amendment, and a turning away from sin.

- b. “Re” means again and “pent” means up, or the highest place. The penthouse is always the apartment on the top of the building. God wants us to live on the top; but in order to do so, we must RE-PENT when we fall.

D. The power of confession and repentance

1. **Psalm 32** is a great psalm showing how miserable a person will be until they confess their sins and how joyful they are after all sin is dealt with through confession
2. **II Samuel 12:1-13** – Nathan confronts David with his sin.

3. **Psalm 51:1-17** – David confesses his sin with Bathsheba after one year of living in self-deception.
- E. **James 5:16** – Confess your faults to one another that you may be healed.
1. Getting things out in the open causes them to lose their power over you.
- F. Unconfessed sin gives Satan power over us.
1. It produces fear of being found out, fear of God, fear of punishment, fear of retribution, fear of not being loved and accepted by God or by people if they knew.
- G. DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE LIGHT!
1. The light does expose, but it also heals!
 2. **John 3:19-21a** – *The [basis of the] judgment (indictment, the test by which men are judged, the ground for the sentence) lies in this: the Light has come into the world, and people have loved the darkness rather than and more than the Light, for their works (deeds) were evil. For every wrongdoer hates (loathes, detests) the Light, and will not come out into the Light but shrinks from it, lest his works (his deeds, his activities, his conduct) be exposed and reproved. But he who practices truth [who does what is right] comes out into the Light . . .*
- Example: If a roach, a rat, and a butterfly were all in a dark room and someone turned on the light; the roach and the rat would run hurriedly for a dark hole – but not the butterfly. We have gone through metamorphosis – we are no longer worms, but butterflies – let's enjoy the light.
- H. **John 8:12** – . . . *I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me will not be walking in the dark, but will have the Light which is Life.*
1. NO LIFE WITHOUT LIGHT!

- I. The Tabernacle and how it relates to our prayer life
 1. There was a progression through the tabernacle – the Holy of Holies being the deepest or innermost part.
 2. **Psalm 100:4** – The Gate
We enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.
 3. **Romans 12:1** – Next was the Altar of Sacrifice
This is where we offer up our lives. He no longer requires burnt offerings but desires burning offerings, “living sacrifices”.
 4. Next was the Laver – This is where the priests had to wash thoroughly before entering the Holy Place. This is where we confess our sins and receive washing by His blood.
 - a. **Psalm 66:18** – If we regard iniquity in our heart,
He will not hear us.

**We cannot even go into the Holy Place
without forgiveness of sins, let alone
into the Holy of Holies.**
 - b. **Many people are desperately trying to walk in
the presence of God, but they are not coming
before God cleansed through confession and
repentance and the blood of Jesus.**
 5. After washing at the Laver, they entered through the curtain that led to the Holy Place. Inside was the Lampstand, which represents the Holy Spirit and His ministry. It reminds us how we must rely on Him for all our ability and strength.
 - a. **The Table of Shewbread** signifies the presence of God, reminding the people that His **presence** and **provision** were always with them.

- b. **The Altar of Incense** is where the priests prayed for the people and placed incense on the hot coals taken from the Altar of Sacrifice. This released a sweet aroma toward heaven.

Our intercession does the same thing.

6. Enter the curtain into the **Holy of Holies**. As we come into His holy presence and meet with Him at the Mercy Seat, we can become intimate and tell Him the petitions and desires of our hearts.

What Should We Do About Sin?

TAKE IT TO JESUS WITH SINCERE REPENTANCE.

V. Don't Be Condemned!

- A. **John 1:29** (KJV) – . . . *Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*
 1. When sin is taken away, the guilt and condemnation are also removed. How can we have guilt if there is no sin?
 - a. **Isaiah 53:5** – But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities; the chastisement of our peace and well-being was upon Him, and with the stripes that wounded Him, we are healed and made whole.
 - b. **Isaiah 53:6** – *All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has made to light upon Him the guilt and iniquity of us all.*
 - c. **Isaiah 53:11b** – Shall My Servant justify many and make many righteous, for He shall bear their iniquities and their guilt with the consequences, says the Lord.

2. This does not mean there are no consequences from sin; but it does mean that when one is **diligently** looking to Christ as their new life, **the effects of sin can be reversed in their life.**

B. **Romans 3:20** – No person is justified by good works. The law came to acquaint men with sin – not just a casual acquaintance; but one that provokes **repentance**, faith, and holy character.

1. Don't have a casual attitude toward sin.

C. Finding Balance

1. **I John 2:1** – Strive not to sin; but if you do, we have an advocate with the Father.

2. **James 4:8-9** – Realize you are sinners and grieve and weep over your sin.

D. **Romans 7:8-25** – Paul realizes his desperate situation and realizes that only God can deliver Him through Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:1-2 states there is now NO CONDEMNATION to those who walk in (and handle their sin according to) the Spirit; because there is a higher law at work in his spirit than the law of sin and death working in his flesh.

E. **Romans 8:33-39** – We are justified! There is no condemnation for the believers! Sin attempts to separate us from the love of God, but it cannot if we believe.

1. Justified – Made just as if we had never sinned.
2. Justify (defined/Vine's/Greek) – “*Dikaiosis* denotes the act of pronouncing righteous, justification, acquittal . . .”

Acquittal means **not guilty**.

3. **Romans 4:25** – *Who was betrayed and put to death because of our misdeeds and was raised to secure our justification (our acquittal), [making our account balance and absolving us from all guilt before God].*

NOTE: (Be sure to read to the congregation.)

4. **Romans 5:18-19** – If one man's (Adam's) sin led to condemnation for all men, then one Man's (Jesus') act of righteousness leads to acquittal and right standing with God and life for all men.
 5. **John 3:18** – No person who believes ever comes up for judgment or is condemned.
- F. **Numbers 21:4-9** – The Israelites sinned, and serpents were biting them. Moses erected (at God's direction) a pole with a bronze serpent. The people were instructed to look to the serpent on the pole (representing Jesus becoming sin for us).
1. Those who kept looking at the serpent on the ground (which was the result of their sin) died!
 2. Those who looked to the bronze serpent on the pole (representing Jesus) lived.
 3. **The lesson** – If you stay condemned, you will be full of death. If you look to Jesus, you can go free from sin and condemnation and live.
- G. **Hebrews 4:15-16** – We have a High Priest Who understands our weaknesses and infirmities. He has been where we are! Let us come past the sins and enter boldly into His presence and receive what we need by faith!

VI. Let Go Of What Lies Behind! Forget Sin!

- A. **Jeremiah 31:33-34** – God forgives and forgets.

- B. **Hebrews 10:6** (KJV) – *In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.*
1. He wants a **burning offering** – a believer, full of godly zeal and passion for holiness, who offers their life daily.
 2. What are you sacrificing to make up for your sin?
 - a. Joy? Peace? God’s help?
 - b. Are you punishing yourself by refusing to go on with life?
- C. **Hebrews 10:8-20** shows clearly that the new and living way must be entered into through receiving forgiveness and letting go of the past.
1. Are you stuck in the past?
 2. Stuck in your sins?
 3. Stuck in someone’s transgression toward you (abuse, rejection, abandonment, etc.)?
- D. **Isaiah 43:18-19** – The release of spiritual rivers is dependent on one’s letting go of the past!
1. Spiritual rivers are a symbol of divine blessings.
- E. Must leave your burden outside the city gate.
1. **Jeremiah 17:21-22, 24-25, 27**
 2. **Hebrews 13:11-12** – Jesus suffered outside the camp.
 3. LESSON – Before you go into the presence of God, you must leave your burden (sin, guilt, the past) with Jesus outside the gate.
- F. Jesus has done His part – He cannot do any more!

1. We must now become like little children and **receive** what He has freely provided!

VII. Rejoice In The Lord; And Again I Say, Rejoice!

- A. **Philippians 4:4-7** – Rejoice always and do not fret or have any anxiety about anything.
 1. **Anything** must include past sins and errors.
- B. Why did Jesus come?
 1. To be a substitute for us, to pay for our sins, and to set us free from a life of misery and condemnation.
 2. **John 10:10** – The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy; but I came that you might have and **enjoy** your life.
- C. **Isaiah 61:10** – *I will **greatly rejoice** in the Lord, my soul will exult in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness . . .*
- D. **Luke 2:10-11** – *But the angel said to them, Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people. For to you is born this day in the town of David a Savior, Who is Christ (the Messiah) the Lord!*
- E. **Luke 10:17-20** – The Lord is telling the disciples not only to rejoice that demons are subject to them, but also to **REJOICE THAT THEIR NAMES ARE ENROLLED IN HEAVEN!**

