

SEWAGE OF SIN

Wednesday, March 21
Reading: Psalm 38

Psalm 38:15 *LORD, I wait for you; you will answer, Lord my God. 16 For I said, "Do not let them gloat or exalt themselves over me when my feet slip." 17 For I am about to fall, and my pain is ever with me. 18 I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin.*

Any thief knows that the best way to steal gas is to siphon it from another car's tank. Stick a rubber hose in the gas tank and suck on the other end until you get a mouth full of gas. Spit it out and place the end in your gas tank. The gasoline will then flow into your tank. Unless you are one dumb thief in Seattle. He decided to siphon gas from a motor home. When the owner heard noise outside and came out to investigate, he found the thief curled up on the ground vomiting violently. Apparently instead of putting his hose in the RV's gas tank, the thief had stuck his hose into the sewage tank instead! ¹

Sin may look like an easy way to get what you want, but in the end you get what you never expected! In Psalm 35, David describes the devastating results of sin and what we need to do to receive forgiveness.

First we see **WHAT GOD DOES** because of our sin (38:1-2). God loves us too much to allow us to get away with sin. He will rebuke and discipline us until we acknowledge our sin and turn back to Him.

Next we see **WHAT SIN DOES** to us (38:3-10). In a word, it makes us miserable! While not all sickness is a result of sin, it is one tool God can use to get our attention. David describes his physical, emotional, and spiritual pain because of his sin. "There is no health" in his body (38:3, 5-7, 10). Guilt has overwhelmed him to the point where he feels like giving up (38:4). His heart groans in anguish as his sighs are laid bare before God (38:8-9).

We next see **WHAT OTHERS DO** because of our sin (38:11-14). As Pastor Warren Wiersbe has said, "Sin puts a wall between you and those who can help you, but it builds a bridge between you and those who want to exploit you and hurt you." ²

Finally, we see **WHAT WE MUST DO** (38:15-22). Two things are important here. First, we must do more than confess; we must be troubled by our sin (38:18). If our sin does not disgust us the way it does God than we are bound to do it again. Second, we must seek more than forgiveness; we must seek a restoration of fellowship with God (38:21-22). Sin breaks our relationship with the Father. God promises to forgive and then we can begin the process of rebuilding our connection that was lost through sin.

Like the thief who got a mouthful of sewage, so sin leaves a bad taste in our mouth. It promises pleasure but brings only pain. Remember David's warnings and avoid the sewage of sin!

¹ <https://www.sermoncentral.com/illustrations/sermon-illustration-dr-larry-petton-humor-revenge-84270?+ref=TextIllustrationSerps>

² Warren W. Wiersbe. Nelson's Quick Reference Chapter-by-Chapter Bible Commentary, p. 332.