



# *Midtown Messenger*

Volume 3

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Issue 46

## *JESUS' SAYINGS ON SIN*

By: *Jason Jackson*

When Joseph learned that his betrothed was pregnant, he was minded to put her away. But an angel of the Lord revealed to Joseph that Mary's conception was miraculous and that the virgin would bring forth a son (Matthew 1:23). He was instructed to name the child Jesus, "For it is he that shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). We would expect, therefore, that while the Son of God was on earth, He taught much regarding sin. Indeed He did, and we would profit from a humble reflection on some of the sayings of Jesus about sin.

Some of the Lord's remarks about sin have been misapplied. For example, when a woman was taken in the act of adultery, she was brought to Jesus for judgment. He dispersed the multitude by stating, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her" (John 8:7). The verse is loved by many who hope that its recitation, at just the right moment, will inoculate them against "judging."

Note the following: First, Christians should judge one another (1 Corinthians 5:12-13; John 7:24). Second, the Lord did not condone this woman's sin. He commanded her to "go thy way; from henceforth sin no more" (John 8:11). Third, Jesus revealed the hypocrisy of the accusers who were more interested in ensnaring the Lord than preserving holiness in their community (cf. Mark 7:1-13). And where was the man who also was caught in "the act of adultery" (cf. Leviticus 20:10)? Fourth, Jesus respected the Mosaic law that prohibited adultery and the punishment that the law prescribed. He also regard-

ed the laws of accusation and testimony, which may not have been satisfied in this case. Fifth, the Son of God had the right to forgive sins (cf. Mark 2:10). The response to this situation by Jesus, the Son of God, was not designed to insulate wicked and impenitent individuals from rebuke or discipline in the Christian Age.

Some of the sayings on sin by Jesus are perplexing. He said on one occasion, "If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no excuse for their sin" (John 15:22). Did Jesus mean that the Jews would not have been in sin had He not come? Would they have been better off had He not come?

The Lord was not saying that the Jews were, before His coming, absolutely sinless. They did have other sins in their life. But when He came, taught, and performed His works, they had a choice. And they chose to sin by rejecting Him. The point of Jesus is this: their rejection was in the face of indisputable evidence. With the great opportunity of witnessing the incarnation of the Son of God came great responsibility. The stubborn Jews rejected their Messiah and were held accountable for it by God (cf. Matthew 22:5-7).

Other sayings of Jesus teach us regarding the nature of sin itself. Sin is a master to whom we become enslaved (John 8:34). Only the truth will set us free (John 8:32). Sin is blinding (John 9:39-41). The conscience's reprimands are harder to hear the more we pursue sin (cf. Hebrews 3:12-13). Positive influences and opportunities are removed when we disregard the longsuffering and goodness of God (cf. Luke 8:12; Romans

1:20,21,24,26,28; 2:4-5). Only humble submission and sincere obedience to Jesus Christ will remedy our spiritual blindness.

Some of the sayings on sin revealed the very purpose for his coming. The Lord said to the paralyzed man, "Thy sins are forgiven" (Luke 5:20). Subsequently, Jesus healed him to prove His divine right to forgive sins. Similarly, He instructed Simon the Pharisee when He said, "Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. And he said to her, Thy sins are forgiven [Grk., perfect tense; i.e., were forgiven and remain forgiven]" (Luke 7:47-48).

When the Lord was criticized for eating with sinners, He revealed the purpose of His coming by responding, "They that are in health have no need of a physician; but they that are sick. I am not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:31-32).

He taught the nature of His coming in parables as well. Remember the "lost" chapter of the Bible, Luke 15, wherein the Lord taught the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost boys? Similarly, when the Lord requested the hospitality of Zacchaeus, He said, "For the Son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

One of the most memorable sayings of Jesus on sin is found in Matthew 26:28. It reminds us of the purpose for which Christ left heaven and took on flesh. Jesus said, "For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many unto the remission of sins." This ought to enlighten us regarding what Jesus taught about sin. Sin is so horrible that only the spotless blood of Jesus can atone for it. His love for the sinner is so deep, He was willing to pour it out. Thanks be to our Lord for teaching us the truth about sin and providing the ransom.

Jackson, Jason. "Jesus' Sayings on Sin."  
ChristianCourier.com

## "It Is Finished"

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

John 19:30

Jesus lived His life with laser like focus. His only desire was to do the Father's will (John 4:34). The will of his Father was that he drink the cup of suffering and anguish and lay down his life for us (John 18:11; 10:15-17). Jesus was willing to do this because all he wanted was to bring glory to his Father (John 12:27-28).

I believe this is why Jesus said, "It is finished" right before he breathed his last breath. He was saying that his work on earth was finished. He had done the Father's will. He had accomplished his mission. The purpose of his Father was now complete.

This kind of focus is what we must cultivate in our hearts. When we are called to do something hard or painful, we must be able to block out our selfish desires for comfort or self-preservation and focus solely on doing the Father's will. We must be concerned more about his will than our own. We must desire his glory over ours. It is only then that we take up our cross and follow him.

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## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of November 15, 2020

**\*\*subject to change\*\***

### **Sunday Morning:**

Announcements: Jeff Harris  
Scripture Reading: Kirk FitzSimmons

### **Lord's Supper & Offering**

Bread: Bryant Siegel  
Fruit of the Vine: Bryant Siegel  
Offering: Lupe Escojido

### **Prayer**

A.M. Opening: Kevin Sheeran  
A.M. Closing: Kevin Sheeran  
P. M. Opening: Rick Bass  
P. M. Closing: Mike Atkinson

### **Song Leaders:**

Sun. A.M.: Larry Nuckels  
Sun. P.M.: Isaac Jobes  
Wed. P.M.: Kevin Sheeran

**Ushers:** Allen Clifton

**Greeters:** Allen Clifton

**Wednesday Devo:** Ronnie Scherffius

**Open/Close Building:**

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**To Our Visitors:** We welcome you to our service. Perhaps this is the first time you have visited us. It is our desire to have you return often and give us a chance to become better acquainted with you. You will find visitor cards on the back of the pew in front of you. Please fill one out.

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**Sermons are available on our website  
[www.midtowncoc.org](http://www.midtowncoc.org) under Resources.**

**MidTown's Bible Classes and Worship services  
can be viewed livestream on YouTube. Search  
MidTown church of Christ Victoria.**

## IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Please continue to pray for those affected by the Corona Virus.

Happy Birthday: Ashley Barton (15); Darryl Lynch (16); Preston Lynch (17); Hazel Pawlik (18)

Happy Anniversary: Herb & Valerie Ramsey (18)

### *Upcoming Events:*

*Nov. 15: Planning meeting for Ladies Day at 4pm.*

*Dec. 4-6: Challenging the Church hosted by MidTown.*

*Feb. 13, 2021: Ladies' Day hosted by MidTown.*

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***\*\*FRIENDLY REMINDER TO CONTINUE  
PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING\*\****

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### **KEEP IN PRAYER**

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady  
Les Daltry  
Janice FitzSimmons  
Ken and Sandra Marie  
Wayne Martin  
Ann Pantel  
Veronica Serenil  
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Dee Gilpatrick  
Faye Henderson  
Charlie Mabe  
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

# MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Minister:** Ronnie Scherffius

**Secretary:** Nina Siegel

## **TIMES OF SERVICES**

|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Sunday Morning Bible Class: | 9:00 AM  |
| Sunday Morning Worship:     | 10:00 AM |
| Sunday Evening Worship:     | 5:00 PM  |
| Wednesday Bible Class:      | 7:00 PM  |

## **RECORD OF ATTENDANCE**

Week of November 8, 2020

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| A.M. Bible Class.....       | 82 |
| A.M. Worship.....           | 99 |
| Sunday Evening Worship..... | 65 |
| Wednesday Bible Class.....  | 58 |

Offering : November 8, 2020.....\$3,257

## **Reading for this week:**

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."

John 20:27

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## **SUPPORTED WORKS**

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony Scherffius

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## **GO PAPERLESS!**

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