

How God Views Sin - Two Visions

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Zechariah 5:1-11

Oakbrook Community Church
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Background: God's people refused to listen to prophets so Bablylon exile & captivity due to sin. After return we should expect the people would keep their distance from sin... but did they?

Vision of the Flying Scroll 5:1-4

- **Size:** Large, same size as porch where law was read (1 Kng 6:3)
- **God's Holy Law:** flying, swooping down on all
- **Ten Commands:**
 - Stealing: middle of 2nd tablet of law - relationship with one another.
 - Swearing falsely: middle of 1st tablet of law - relationship w/ God
 - Jesus' summary of law: Mt 22:37-39

Point: don't get lost in imagery, we must judge our lives by God's Word. We are all God-robbers & God-profaners.

Apply: Although God is gracious, He has a full measure for judgment, both for nations and individuals!

Vison of the Woman in a Basket 5:5-11

- We can expect judgment when the full measure has been reached, only God knows.
- When that time comes God will carry the sinner away from Him to Shinar (the place which stands for defiance against God) Gen 10:10; 11:2-4; Rev 17:5-6; 18:2-7

Apply: If we think we can secretly disobey God's Law & get away with it we are deceiving ourselves. Our sin is never private, it breaks our homes!

To Think About & Discuss:

- Read Galatians 3:19-25. What was God's purpose in giving us the law?
- Read Galatians 3:13. How does Christ redeem His people?
- How do you answer someone who says that the Ten Commandments have no significance for today?

Consider the Threefold Use of the Law:

- A Mirror – the law show us the perfect righteousness of God and it shows us our human sinfulness.
- Restraint of Evil – the law can't change hearts, but it does help protect the righteous from the unjust. The law allows for limited justice on this earth until the last judgment is realized.
- Reveals what is Pleasing to God – The believer should delight in the law as God does. John 14:15. The law helps God's people serve God with honor & glory.
- If someone told you that God is too loving of a God to judge, what would you say? Can you give examples from everyday life to show that love is not incompatible with justice?
- How can we be hard on sin without becoming harsh, unkind and judgmental? What is the proper balance between mercy and judgment?
- Is all discipline or judgment related to some sin in our lives? Heb 12:1-13.
- How do we properly balance living IN the world, yet not becoming OF the world? John 17:14-19.
- C.J. Mahaney talks of living a Cross-centered life... what would that look like practically? Describe how you seek to be a Gospel-centered believer as it relates to obeying the law and living in grace?