Why Sin Is Bad

Mark 2:1-12 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

When Jesus came back to Capernaum a few days later, it was heard that He was at home. [2] *And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer space, not even near the door; and He was speaking the word to them.* [3] *And some people *came, bringing to Him a man who was paralyzed, carried by four men.* [4] *And when they were unable to get to Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and after digging an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralyzed man was lying.* [5] *And Jesus, seeing their faith, *said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."*

[6] *But some of the scribes were sitting there and thinking it over in their hearts,* [7] *"Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins except God alone?"* [8] *Immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were thinking that way within themselves, *said to them, "Why are you thinking about these things in your hearts?* [9] *Which is easier, to say to the paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven'; or to say, 'Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk'?* [10] *But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He *said to the paralyzed man,* [11] *"I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet, and go home."* [12] *And he got up and immediately picked up the pallet and went out in the sight of everyone, so that they were all amazed and were glorifying God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"*

John 5:14 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*Afterward, Jesus *found him in the temple and said to him, "Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing **worse** happens to you."*

Introduction

Let me begin my sermon with a story of Jesus. There was a pool called Bethesda (house of mercy) in Jerusalem. Every day, around the pool, a multitude of people would gather: those who were sick, blind, limping, or paralyzed with one goal in mind, to be healed from their illness. When the water is stirred up by an angel of the Lord, whoever gets into the pool first will be healed.

One man was also waiting there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. [6] *Jesus, upon seeing this man lying there and knowing that he had already been in that condition for a long time, *said to him, "Do you want to get well?"* [7] *The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me."* [8] *Jesus *said to him, "Get up, pick up your pallet and walk."* [9] *Immediately the man became well, and picked up his pallet and began to walk….* [14] *When Jesus saw him in*

*the temple, He commanded him saying, "Behold, you have become well; **do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you**"* (John 5:6-9, 14).

Now, we don't know how and when this man got ill, but one thing is for sure. After Jesus healed the man, He warned him not to sin any more so that nothing worse happens to him. What could it be worse than an illness that lasted for 38 years?! Whatever it may be, Jesus reminds the man to prevent it by not sinning anymore. It reminds us as well that sin can bring forth a physical illness or something worse than that. In fact, the Scripture confirms such spiritual truth. Remember? Adam's disobedience brought forth sickness and death upon the entire humanity.

Nowadays no one talks about such connection between sin and our well-being, especially, health, but it is obvious that when we do something against God's will, it affects our spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being. For instance, I heard many a time that the prolonged bitterness and anger inside triggers cancer. Sadly, it happens almost always to the victims, not to the offenders. I understand now why it is always a good thing to obey God's commands, even though, we don't understand why. For instance, God commands us to forgive our offenders (Matthew 6:14). When we let go of our hate and bitterness into God's hands, in turn, we receive the benefit of healing and prevention of cancer in us. That's what Jesus is talking about here. Sin no more to prevent something worse than before. Truly, sin is really bad for our well-being.

Content

Definition of sin: You don't need my help to know what sin is. We generally understand what it is. Doing something bad, right? In the sight of God and people. Here's the biblical definition of sin: to miss 'the mark,' the bull's eye. The mark here is God's will and commandments. Sin ranges from the sin of unbelief, that is, not to believe in Jesus to the violation of the Ten Commandments.

For your information: the word 'sin' appears over 1,300 times in the Bible. 900+ times in the Old Testament, and 400+ times in the New. Psalm has 112 times, and the Book of Romans has 55 times. It appears in almost every book in the Bible (60 books---36 books in the Old Testament and 24 books in the New Testament). From Genesis and Revelation. It has been around us from the very beginning and will be so till the Day of Judgment. No wonder the Lord had to do something about it and sent Jesus to deal with our sin.

Why Sin Is Bad

When the Lord rejected Cain's offering, he became very angry. To him, the LORD said, *"Why are you angry? **Sin** is lurking at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it"* (Genesis 4:6-7). Cain, unfortunately, failed to master his anger and ended up killing his brother. God held him accountable for his action and he became a vagabond on

the earth. One thing is clear: whenever sin is committed, there are always consequences thereof.   E.g., nailing on the wall leaves the mark. Sin affects all areas of our life.

1. First and foremost, sin affects our eternal life in Heaven. Yes, we know that our faith in Christ grants us forgiveness and ultimately the life eternal in Christ. Thank God for that. However, that doesn't mean that we are no longer tempted to sin. The opposite is true. Sin keeps coming into our heart. If our sins remain unrepented, they will block our access to the Holy Father in Heaven that includes eternal life.

2. It affects our well-being, both spiritual and physical, in the earthly life. You don't need any further explanation on this point.

3. It affects the family. I will talk about this later.

4. Sin affects the faith community. For instance, in the Corinthian Church, some people took Communion with their sins unrepented that in turn affected the congregation's health negatively. Paul wrote: "*27 Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy way, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. 28 But a person must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For the one who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not properly recognize the body. 30 For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number are asleep*" (1 Corinthians 11:27-30).

5. Sin surely affects the nation. Repentance brings the nation back to the Lord. To the people of Israel, the LORD spoke, "*14 and My people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will **forgive their sin and will heal their land**.*" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

6. Sin even affects the environment. The destruction of our environment often results from dishonest and irresponsible use of God's given resources on earth based on greed. E.g., deforestation due to illegal logging in Brazil. Did you know that the LORD will destroy those who destroy the earth? (Revelation 11:18). Remember that Adam's iniquity brought forth the divine curse on the ground (Genesis 3:17).

Of course, thanks be to God, who sent Jesus Christ His Son from heaven to save humanity from their sins once and for all through His own death. We are freed from the bondage of sin, curse, and death through His sacrifice (Ephesians 1:7). The same Lord commands us to sin no more in our journey to Heaven.

Case Study 1: King David.   There are some people in the Bible who didn't take sin seriously. Adam. Eve. Abraham. Lot. Jacob. David. Solomon. Judas Iscariot. The list goes on. Let's take the example of King David. He did think nothing of sleeping with someone's wife one night. Later, however, in an attempt to cover up what he has done, he ended up destroying a family, murdering his beloved soldier, losing the baby born through his

adultery, and putting through his entire kingdom an underserved hardship through a rebellion by his own son. You may say David's sin was rather unusual, but one thing is for sure. Our sin always bears its fruit, and we must live through it. God will hold us accountable for all our words and deeds, therefore, beware of sins that affect people around us negatively for years.

Case Study 2: Joseph. We also have some people in the Bible who took sin seriously. Joseph. Moses. Daniel… Let me take the example of Joseph. In his teens, Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt by his own brothers. He was a handsome young man serving at Potiphar's house. His master's wife was infatuated with him and repeatedly demanded him to lie down with her. Of course, the God-fearing Joseph refused to do so. Consequently, he was falsely accused by his master's wife as an attempted rapist and imprisoned for years. But, in the end, he became the prime minister of the Egyptian Kingdom to whom even his former master bowed. Imagine that! Had Joseph succumbed to the temptation from his master's wife for instant gratification, what would have happened to God's plan to save the people of Israel from the bondage of slavery? When we resist the temptation of sin, we work with the divine purpose and for that the Lord rewards us beyond our imagination.

Briefly, let's think about the ways to avoid sin.

Three Ways Not to Sin and Stay Healthy

1. **Become sober-minded** (1 Corinthians 15:34). Stay awake to Righteousness. Ask yourself the question: what I am doing now, will it bring glory to the name of the LORD, or will it bring shame to His name? Choose His glory and righteousness.
2. **Have Knowledge of God** and His good, perfect, and pleasing will (Romans 12:2). To know God's will, we need to stop being conformed to the pattern of the world but be transformed by the renewal of mind. How? By the Word of God. "I have treasured Your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against You" (Psalm 119:11). Obey His voice and walk in all the way as the LORD commands us, then all will be well with us (Jeremiah 7:23). The Word of God makes our spirit well first, then it trickles down to our soul and physical health (1 John 3:2.).
3. **Prayer.** Sin relentlessly marches into our heart through our eyes and ears. The best way to thwart the temptations and overcome evil is to stay focused on the Lord in prayer. Jesus commands us to "*Keep watching and praying, so that you do not come into temptation;*" (Matthew 26:41).

Conclusion

Invite the congregation to come forth for healing. Repent known and unknown sins, and come for healing.   Amen.