

HOW TO DEAL WITH YOUR PAST

ROMANS 6:17

INTRODUCTION:

1. What is the greatest gift that God has offered to mankind?
2. The way we deal with our past is to remember how God deals with our past.

I. SIN IS COVERED

- A. **PSALM 32.1,2:** *“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered.”*
1. Transgression is being rebellions against God.
 2. Sin is being a failure to God.
 3. Iniquity is being filthy before God.
- B. God takes our debt of sin that we owe engraved in stone and covers it up. (Matt. 18.24,25; 1 Pet. 1.18,19)

II. SIN IS CLEANSED

- A. **ISAIAH 1.18:** *“Though your sins are like scarlet...though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.”*
1. Scarlet: Literally, double-dipped.
 2. Crimson: Dye from crushed bugs.
- B. God cleanses our sin stained soul. (Heb. 8.12)

III. SIN IS TOSSED

- A. **ISAIAH 38.17:** *“You have cast all my sins behind Your back.”*
- B. To cast behind your back is to view them as uninteresting and worthless. (cf. 1 Kings 14.9; Neh. 9.26; Ps. 50.17)
- C. God sees our past as not deserving of His attention.

IV. SIN IS BLOTTED OUT AND DISSIPATED

- A. **ISAIAH 44.21,22:** *“I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions”* (cf. 1 Pet. 1.18,19; Eph. 1.7)
- B. Two illustrations.
1. Blotted out like using whiteout on a ledger.
 2. A thick cloud reference fog that is dissipated.

V. SIN IS DROPPED INTO THE SEA

- A. **MICAH 7.19:** *“cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea.”*
- B. All the things I have done, said, or thought, God has tossed them into the sea never again to see the light of day.

CONCLUSION: In the eyes of God, you have no past.

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

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MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

WHAT IS BEAUTIFUL?

What is beautiful often subjective. What is beautiful to one may not be beautiful to another. Most husbands will say that they are married to the most beautiful woman on earth. Every husband is right. Beauty is subjective.

What is beautiful in the eyes of God? To answer that question is to move from the subjective to the objective. When God says something is beautiful, we are no longer in the realm of opinion. In fact, God has indeed specified what is beautiful. In Micah 6.8, it tells us that *“He has shown you, O man, what is good.”* The word “good” translates the idea of beautiful. Literally, it says that God has revealed to us what is beautiful. He then specifies.

First, reference is made to *“doing justly”* (Micah 6.8). In the eyes of God, treating my fellow man fairly is beautiful. Second, reference is made to *“love mercy”* (Micah 6.8). In the eyes of God, treating my fellow man by stepping into His shoes and then treating him the way I would want to be treated is beautiful. Third, reference is made to *“walk humbly with your God”* (Micah 6.8) In the eyes of God seeing others as better than myself is beautiful.

Do you want to be seen as beautiful in the eyes of God? Being a beautiful (good) person is not defined by society, politics, or by personal morality (cf. 1 Pet. 3.4). To be beautiful, I must be the kind of person God defines as beautiful. CLP

HOW TO HANDLE REJECTION

MARK 6:4

INTRODUCTION:

1. Have you ever been rejected? How did it make you feel? Have you ever been rejected because of your faith?
2. Jesus had to deal with rejection throughout His ministry. It was something that had been building up since the beginning.
3. Seeing how Jesus handled rejection will help us know how to respond to those who reject us. [READ MARK 6.1-6]

I. EXPLAINING THE CONTEXT

- A. There is a specific location.
 1. **MARK 6.1:** “*Then He went out from their and came to His own country.*” (cf. Luke 4.16)
 2. **MARK 6.2:** “*He began to teach in the synagogue.*”
- B. There is a specific day.
 1. **MARK 6.2:** “*And when Sabbath day had come.*”
 2. The Sabbath was a special day to the Jews. (Ex. 20.8)
- C. There is a specific event.
 1. **MARK 6.2:** “*He began to teach in the synagogue.*”
 2. This was not the first time. (Luke 4.17-21)

II. EXPOUNDING ON HIS REJECTION

- A. They tried to discredit Him.
 1. They questioned His credentials. (Mark 6.2; John 9.34)
 2. They questioned His character. (Mark 6.2; 3.22)
 3. They questioned His class. (Mark 6.3)
 4. They questioned His claim. (Mark 6.3; 1.11; 3.11)
- B. They tried to disgrace Him.
 1. **MARK 6.2:** “*Many hearing Him were astonished.*”
 2. **MARK 6.3:** “*So they were offended at Him.*”
- C. How did Jesus respond? (Mark 6.4,6)

III. EXERCISING HIS EXAMPLE

- A. We need to be careful with our words. (Mark 6.5)
- B. We should turn our attention to others. (Mark 6.5)
- C. We can never give up.
 1. **MARK 6.6:** “*Then He went about...teaching.*”
 2. We cannot let rejection cause us to quit. (2 Tim. 3.12)

CONCLUSION: Are you walking in the steps of Jesus?

WALKING IN THE COMMANDMENTS

The Bible defines walking as living. To walk is to conduct your life or behave in a certain way. Your walk is a measure of your identity. A follower of Christ will “*walk just as He walked*” (1 John 2.6). The Bible also references the path that we choose to walk. Some walk “*according to the course of this world.*” In Matthew 7, Jesus refers to two paths. One path is described as easy and “*leads to destruction.*” The other path is described as difficult and “*leads to life*” (Matt. 7.13,14).

In the first chapter of Luke, we are introduced to a couple named Zacharias and Elizabeth. You may recognize their names. They were the parents of John the Baptist (Luke 1.13,57-66). In verse 6, the inspired writer tells us that they “*were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless*” (Luke 1.6).

Notice that they were characterized as “*righteous before God.*” They did not meet the standards of righteousness defined by the world. They may have been seen by the world as too judgmental (Gen. 19.9), or behaving strangely (1 Pet. 4.4). But in the eyes of God, they were righteous.

Notice also that they were characterized as blameless. The idea of blameless is that those who desire to find fault can scrutinize your life and find no legitimate reason to accuse you. In Philippians, we are told how to become blameless. We are told to “*do all things without complaining and disputing that you may become blameless*” (Phil. 2.14,15). Zacharias and Elizabeth were blameless. Even if you tried to find something of which to accuse them, you would come up empty handed.

What made this couple right in the eyes of God and having nothing in their lives of which they could be accused? If you go back to Luke 1.6, it says that they were “*walking in the commandments and ordinances of the LORD.*” They were righteous and blameless because they lived their lives by keeping God’s commandments. The verb “walking” is in the form of an ongoing action. They continuously lived their lives in obedience to God.

2 John 6 that we are to “*walk according to the commandments.*” We cannot keep the commandments of God only when it is convenient or when we feel particularly inspired. Walking in the commandments of God means that it is to be a way of life. Only then can we be seen by God as righteous and blameless. CLP