

04. Sin Comes From Unbelief

'Sin,' what is it?

Every religion in the world uses the word 'sin'. But, I think, it is true to say that in the minds of many human beings, who are religious, there is no understanding of what it is. Even those who read the Bible, if you ask them, 'What is sin, really,' they don't understand. Just as when we understand the sickness, we can find the cure, so do we when we understand sin.

The Bible speaks about how the first man and woman, whom God created, sinned. Essentially, they sinned because they did not believe that God was a good God, who loved them, who gave commands for their good. God had placed them in a garden where He told them they could eat anything; they could do anything except one thing - they were not to eat of a particular tree. There God wanted to test their obedience. And not only to test their obedience but also to give them an opportunity to choose what was right; to say no to what was wrong, and thereby develop character. We read in Genesis 3 how that Satan came into that garden and tempted Adam and Eve to do what God told them not to. He tempted them by telling them that they could get certain advantages if they ate of that tree. They were told they would be like God - 'you will develop your personality.'

That is how Satan always comes. When Satan tempts people to do something wrong, he never tells them about the consequences. When Satan tempts a person to take his first alcoholic drink, he does not tell him how he will finally become enslaved to alcoholic drinks; become a drunkard, waste his money, destroy his family, bring poverty into his

04. 罪來自不相信

「罪」,它到底是什麼?

世上的每個宗教都用「罪」這個詞。但我想,很多有宗教的人,並不明白「罪」的真正意思。甚至很多讀《聖經》的人,如果你問他們「到底罪是什麼」,他們都不知道。就像只有當我們明白一種疾病,才能夠找到治癒的方法,同樣的也會發生于當我們明白了什麼是「罪」。

《聖經》談到神造的第一個男人和女人,犯了罪。本質上來說,他們的罪,是因為他們不相信神是良善的,是愛他們的,給他們的指示是為了他們好。神把他們放在伊甸園,告訴他們可以吃一切果子,除了那特定的一棵樹。神想要試驗他們的順服。不止是試驗他們是否順服,也是給他們機會來做出對的選擇;對錯的說「不」,從而發展他們的**品格**。我們在創世紀第3章,看到撒但如何進入伊甸園,誘惑亞當和夏娃去做神囑咐不要做的事。他誘惑他們,告訴他們從吃那棵樹上的果子可以得到的好處。告訴他們,他們會變得像神——「你可以發展自己的個性」。

這是撒但慣用的伎倆。撒但誘惑人去做錯事的時候,從來不告訴他們後果。當撒但誘惑人去喝第一杯酒的時候,他不告訴那人將會被酒精所奴役;變成一個酒鬼,浪費錢財,毀壞家庭,使他的家貧窮,他的妻子和孩子會遭受痛苦。他不和他們說這些。他只是說:「你會覺得非常爽。」當他誘惑一些年輕人吸毒的時候,他不告訴他們,最後他們會毀壞自己的理智,毀壞生活。他可

home, and how his wife and children will suffer. He doesn't tell him all that. He just says, 'You will get a kick out of it.' When he tempts some young person to take drugs, he doesn't tell that person how finally he will destroy his mind, destroy his life. He will probably have a premature death, he will lose all his money, he will probably become a thief finally because he would want more and more money with his insatiable craving for drugs. The devil won't tell him all that. He will just tell him how he is going to enjoy himself if he takes a little of these forbidden drugs and that he will get a kick out of it.

It was exactly like that when Satan came to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. There we have an example of how he comes to all human beings today, telling them what they can gain. When he tells a man to steal, he doesn't tell him about all the potential dangers; about how he could be locked up in jail, he could have children grow up following his example and be thieves, etc. No, he just tells of that immediate prospect of gaining some money. In the same way with adultery, Satan doesn't tell people about the consequences, but only the immediate pleasure. Remember this thing: whenever you are tempted, temptation always offers a certain forbidden pleasure. But if you are sensible, you will think of the consequences. A sensible man always thinks about the future, not just about the immediate present. He thinks what is going to be the result of my action? And if you think about the results of your action, there are many things you will not do.

Animals don't normally think about the results of their actions, though some animals do. There are many animals which are sensible, more sensible than human beings. But very often animals don't know the consequences of their actions, but we do. We have seen around us so many examples of

能會提早死亡,失掉所有的錢,可能變成一個賊,因為他需要更多更多的錢來滿足他的毒癮。魔鬼不會告訴他這些。他只會告訴這個人,好好享受一下,通過禁藥來爽一下。

撒但來到伊甸園裡的亞當和夏娃時候,就是這樣的。從這我們看到一個例子,撒但在今天是如何來誘惑所有人的,就是只告訴他們可以獲得什麼。當他告訴一個人去偷,他不告訴他潛在的危險——可能會被關進監獄,或者他的孩子也會變成賊,等等。撒但就只告訴人馬上的效果,就是「能得到錢」。姦淫也是同樣,撒但只告訴人當時你能獲得的快感。請記住一件事:只要當你被誘惑的時候,誘惑總會提供一種禁忌的快感。但如果你足夠理智,就會去想後果。一個理智的人,總會去想未來,而不止是當下的快感。他會想,我的行為會帶來怎樣的後果?如果你冷靜思考自己行為的後果,那麼很多事情,你都不會做了。

動物一般不會思考它們行為的後果,雖然有些動物也會——有很多動物比人還懂事。但通常,動物是不明白自己行為的後果的,可人類是明白的。我們周圍就有很多的例子,有些人由於錯誤的行動,而毀掉了自己。就在那一天,亞當和夏娃做出了至關重要的一個決定,結果造成了對他們自己,和他們所有後代的影響。從

people who have destroyed themselves by wrong actions. Adam and Eve took a very important decision that day that produced lifelong consequences, not only for themselves, but for their children and grandchildren and all their descendants. From that we should learn one thing, that all the decisions we take in life produce consequences; we have to reap what we sow. That is what the Bible says. Many a times, it is not only we who will have to suffer, our children also will have to reap what we sow. The same works the other way too. If you sow what is good, your children are going to reap the good fruit of what you sow.

In Adam's case, he and his wife were sent out of God's presence from that garden for the rest of their lives. So don't think that the little choices that you make in your life are unimportant, and that you will never reap a harvest in your future of what you are sowing today. It is not true. I mean, the devil will blind you and make you think that such things will not happen. But they will. We considered in an earlier study as to why does God want us to be tempted? - So that our character may develop. He doesn't want robots. He doesn't want inanimate beings that just go automatically according to certain laws of nature. He wants us to be moral beings that choose to do what is good. That is the only way we can be children of God. There is no virtue in choosing what is good unless there is an alternative choice which is also attractive.

See, when Adam and Eve were put into that garden, if God had made that forbidden tree ugly, repulsive, full of thorns and thistles, and in every way hideous, would Adam and Eve ever have been tempted to go near it? But we read in the Bible that the tree was very attractive. It made Adam and Eve's mouths water; they longed to eat of it. Temptation has to be

這我們可以學到一件事,就是我們所有的任何決定,在人生裡都有後果;我們會收穫自己所種下的。這就是《聖經》所說的。很多時候,不止是我們會遭受不幸,我們的孩子也會收穫我們所種下的。反過來,如果你種下好種子,你的孩子也會收穫好的果子。

對於亞當來說,他和他的妻子,整個餘生都離開了有神同在的伊甸園。所以,別以為你人生裡小小的選擇不重要,別以為你不會收穫今天所種下的。那是假的。我是說,魔鬼會蒙蔽你的眼睛,讓你以為什麼都不會發生。但是它們會發生的。我們想一下,前面學過的,為什麼神讓我們面對誘惑?是為了我們的品質可以被鍛煉。祂不想要機器人。祂不想要了無生機的東西,就只是遵守著自然律運行。祂想要我們成為「道德的生命體」,可以去選擇做對的事情。這是唯一的能讓我們成為神的孩子的方法。如果沒有其它誘人卻錯誤的選項,那麼選擇「好」就沒有任何美德在裡面了。

你看,當亞當和夏娃在伊甸園時,如果那棵禁忌的樹非常醜、令人厭惡,又佈滿荊棘,怎麼看都極其醜陋恐怖,那麼亞當和夏娃可能被誘惑到跟前去嗎?我們看到《聖經》說,這棵樹非常的誘人。它讓亞當夏娃流口水,讓他們非常想嘗一嘗。誘惑必須要迷人,才能成為誘惑。要不然,就不是誘惑了。這世上有些東西你若覺得它不吸引人,就不會被它誘惑。品德是你通過面

attractive for it to be a temptation. Otherwise, it is not temptation. If you find something in the world unattractive, you will never be tempted by it. Character is developed through temptation that is attractive and yet which you know is wrong and you are resisting and saying no to it. That is what it is to be a moral being.

That is why God has allowed many things in the world to be attractive. Some of those things are forbidden, for example, an attractive woman who is not your wife. You are not to lust after her, you are not to admire her beauty. It will destroy you. It will destroy your marriage relationship. Money is attractive, but if you place money above God and pursue after money to the exclusion of God - like many people do - your life will be destroyed. So everything we do, every decision we take is like sowing a seed from that comes the harvest.

Now let us look at the sin of Adam and Eve. God loved them. He gave them their bodies, gave them health, gave them life, gave them a garden, and gave them each other. They should have thought, 'Well, God is so good. He will give everything good for us. If he forbids us from partaking something, it must be with a very good reason.' If they had that faith, they would not have gone astray. But they lost faith in God. They did not believe that God was good when Satan told them that God did not want them to be like Him: 'There is some reason why He did not allow you to eat from this tree; He doesn't want you to develop.' They believed that lie, and it is when people believe the lie of Satan that they fall into sin.

Sin begins with unbelief in the perfect love of God. That leads to disobedience. That is why, in the Bible, faith in God and obedience to his commandments are linked always close together.

對你知道是錯的、卻非常迷人的誘惑,抵抗它不屈從,而發展出來的。只有這樣,才能成為一個「道德的生命體」。

這就是為什麼神允許這個世上的很多東西如此迷人。這其中有些東西是禁忌的,比如,一個迷人卻並非你妻子的女人。你不該對她有任何渴望,也不可以去仰慕她的美麗。這會毀了你。毀了你的婚姻。金錢是迷人的,但如果你追求金錢勝過神——很多人都是這樣的——你的人生就毀了。所以,我們做的每件事,做出的每個決定,都像種下一粒種子,以後會收穫它的結果。

現在讓我們來看一看亞當和夏娃所犯的罪。神愛他們。祂給了他們身體、健康,給了他們生活,給他們伊甸園(工作和家園),給了他們彼此。他們理應想,「神真是太好了。祂給我們一切有益處的東西。那麼,如果祂禁止我們參與某些東西,一定會有祂的原因。」他們若有這樣的信心,就不會進入了歧途。可惜他們失掉了對神的信心。當撒但告訴他們「祂不要你們吃這棵樹的果子是有原因的,因為祂不想讓你們開化,變得和祂一樣」,此時他們不再相信神是良善的。因此他們相信了這個謊話,就在人們相信撒但的謊言時,便已經跌進了罪裡。

「罪」是從懷疑神的完美的愛開始的,它導致不順了服。這就是為什麼,在《聖經》裡,對神的信心和對神的順服總是緊密的連在一起。不相信和不順服神也總是在一起的。「不順服」是「不相信」所結的果子。

And unbelief and disobedience to God's commandments also go together. Disobedience is the fruit of unbelief, just like obedience is the fruit of faith. If I believe, for example, that everything that God has forbidden will harm me, I will be very happy to avoid all of them. Why? Because I believe that God is a good God. And whatever God tells me to do, if I believe that it is really for my good, I would obey. So, when I don't have faith in God's love, I sin. That is unbelief which leads to sin.

Consider our children, for example, when we tell them to go to school. When they are small, say, 4 or 5 years old, they are not eager to go to school; we have to force them. And sometimes they go weeping to school, perhaps thinking that daddy and mommy are so hard; they are forcing me to go to school; they don't allow me to sit at home and play. But we know what is good for them. They don't know what is good for them. One day, when they grow up, they will realise that what daddy and mommy forced them to do was good for them. In the same way, if we can believe in God, we will realise that everything He tells us is for our good and then we will do it. So the first step to God is faith, and then comes obedience. That is what we see in the New Testament. In The New Testament, salvation comes by faith. You must believe in God, believe that He is good, that He is kind, that He is interested in you. Sin is unbelief. You don't believe that God is good, and therefore you do the things which He tells you not to do; the things He tells you to avoid through the conscience within you. You don't obey in the things which He tells you to obey. Why? - Because you don't believe.

We can also say that 'sin' is choosing created things; ourselves, and our ways above God, instead of God's way; seeking to please ourselves instead of pleasing God. That is what Adam and Eve did.

比方說,我若相信神所禁止的事物是會傷害我的,那麼我一定非常高興地去避開它們。為什麼呢?因為我相信神是至善的神。無論神告訴我做什麼,如果我相信這是為了我好,那我就會順服。所以,當我對神的愛沒信心的時候,就犯罪了。這就是「不相信」導致「犯罪」。

設想下,當我們告訴孩子去上學。當他們還小的時候,四五歲,是不太想上學的,那時我們會強迫他們去。有時候他們甚至會哭著去學校,也許他們會覺得爸爸媽媽太嚴厲了——他們逼著我去學校,不讓我坐在家裡玩。可是,我們知道什麼是對他們有益處的。他們不知道什麼對自己有益處。直到有一天,他們長大了,就會意識到爸爸媽媽的強迫是為了他們好。同樣的,如果我們相信神,就會明白祂告訴我們去做的事是對我們有好處的,爾後我們就會願意去做。因此,歸向神的第一步是「信」,然後才是順服。這是我們在《新約》裡看到的。《新約》說,救贖來自于信。你必須相信神,相信祂是好的,祂是善的,祂在乎你。罪是由於不相信。你因為不相信神是出於好的目的,所以才會去做祂告訴你別做的事,那些祂放了道德心在你裡面告訴你別去做的事。而你違背祂要你做的,是為什麼?因為你壓根就不相信。

另外,我們也可以說,「罪」是「選擇被造物」,讓我們這些被造物高過神,選擇我們自己的方式而非神的方式,選擇討自己喜歡而非討神喜歡。這就是亞當和夏娃那時候做的。這棵樹可以滿足他們的某種渴求,雖

There was this tree that would satisfy their longing and even though God had told them not to take part in it, they did it. Why do people commit adultery? It is because they want their own way, they want to please themselves. They don't believe in what God says about the harm that will do to them.

Once our minds are enlightened to see this truth, that God is a good God, everything He forbids us from taking part of is for our good, everything He tells us to do is for our good, we will submit to God, we will submit to Jesus Christ. We will open our hearts to the teaching of Christ in the Scriptures, and say, 'Lord, I want to obey your word.' I want to encourage you to turn to the Bible and read it. When you pray, say, 'Lord Jesus, help me to give up everything you tell me to give up and to do everything you tell me to do. I believe you are a good God.'

然神交代他們不要去吃,可他們還是吃了。為什麼人會犯姦淫?因為他們要按自己的方式去行,要取悅自己。他們不相信神說的,那些東西會傷害他們。

一旦我們的頭腦被這些真理喚醒,看到神是良善的神,一切祂禁止我們做的是為了我們好,一切祂要我們去做的也是為了我們好,這樣,我們就會服從于神,服從于耶穌基督。我們會敞開心扉,聆聽基督通過《聖經》的教導,說:「主啊,我願意順服你的話語。」我想鼓勵你們去讀《聖經》。當你祈禱的時候,說:「主耶穌,請說明我放棄一切你要我放棄的,去做一切你要我做的。我相信你是至善的神。」