

Sin Is No Joke

2 Chronicles 36:14-21

Introduction:

- A. The text records the attitude of Judah just before the Babylonian captivity.
 - 1. Included the attitudes of the king (Zedekiah), the priests and the people (vv. 12-14).
 - 2. When confronted by God's messengers, they mocked ("to joke, jest, to make jokes" - Brown-Driver-Briggs).
- B. Sins and sincere efforts to correct it are often treated as a joke – but, it is no joke.
- C. No aspect of sin is a joke.

Discussion:

I. **The Nature of Sin Is No Joke.**

- A. It's description by Peter (2 Pet. 2:20-22).
- B. It is to transgression of God's law (1 John 3:4)
- C. It is to neglect doing the good one knows to do (Jas. 4:17).
- D. It is to engage in doubtful practices (Rom. 14:22-23).
- E. It is to act presumptuously (Psa. 19:13; 2 Pet. 2:10).

II. **The Effect of Sin is No Joke.**

- A. It separates one from God (Isa. 59:1-2).
 - 1. Causing spiritual death now (Eph. 2:1)
 - 2. Causing eternal death after physical death (Rom. 6:23; Rev. 20:14-15; 21:8)
- B. It may adversely affects others (Ex. 20:5; 1 Cor. 5:6; Matt. 18:7)
- C. It hardens one's heart (Heb. 3:13; 2 Pet. 2:14).

III. **The Correction of Sin is No Joke.**

- A. The common approaches to sin.
 - 1. Deny guilt.
 - 2. Only admit guilt.
 - 3. Admit sin, but either justify or glorify it.
 - 4. Admit sin, but minimize the seriousness of it.
 - 5. Admit sin, but generalize it – "So, what, everyone does."
- B. The correct approaches to sin.
 - 1. All sinners must repent – turn from sin (Acts 17:30)
 - a. True repentance is prompted by godly sorrow (2 Cor. 7:8-10)
 - b. True repentance is followed by reformation. (Lk. 3:8; Acts 26:20).
 - 2. Alien sinners must repent and be baptized (Acts 2:38).
 - 3. Erring Christians must repent and pray (Acts 8:22)

Conclusion:

- A. Don't treat sin as a joke (cf. Gen 19:14).
- B. Don't mistake the patience for approval.