

Notes:

Dan Wilvers- Part 1 September 25th,
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What Sin Does

Judges 17:1-13

There was a man named Micah, who lived in the hill country of Ephraim. 2 One day he said to his mother, "I heard you place a curse on the person who stole 1,100 pieces of silver from you. Well, I have the money. I was the one who took it." "The Lord bless you for admitting it," his mother replied. 3 He returned the money to her, and she said, "I now dedicate these silver coins to the Lord. In honor of my son, I will have an image carved and an idol cast."

4 So when he returned the money to his mother, she took 200 silver coins and gave them to a silversmith, who made them into an image and an idol. And these were placed in Micah's house. 5 Micah set up a shrine for the idol, and he made a sacred ephod and some household idols. Then he installed one of his sons as his personal priest.

6 In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.

7 One day a young Levite, who had been living in Bethlehem in Judah, arrived in that area. 8 He had left Bethlehem in search of another place to live, and as he traveled, he came to the hill country of Ephraim. He happened to stop at Micah's house as he was traveling through. 9 "Where are you from?" Micah asked him. He replied, "I am a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, and I am looking for a place to live." 10 "Stay here with me," Micah said, "and you can be a father and priest to me. I will give you ten pieces of silver a year, plus a change of clothes and your food." 11 The Levite agreed to this, and the young man became like one of Micah's sons. 12 So Micah installed the Levite as his personal priest, and he lived in Micah's house. 13 "I know the Lord will bless me now," Micah said, "because I have a Levite serving as my priest."

This is God's Word

I. What Sin Does to Us

Here's what we're being told here in this seemingly innocuous story near the end of the Book of Judges. Sin in its advanced stages isn't just about horrific wickedness, it is that, and that's what Chapters 19-21 of the book of Judges describes.

The First Essence of Sin: Banal self-absorption

... I have the money. I was the one who took it." vs. 2

... In honor of my son, I will have an image carved and an idol cast." vs. 3

... Micah set up a shrine for the idol, and he made a sacred ephod and some household idols. Then he installed one of his sons as his personal priest. vs 5

The Second Essence of Sin: It leads us to disobey God

"I now dedicate these silver coins to the Lord. In honor of my son, I will have an image carved and an idol cast." Judges 17:3

"You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. Exodus 20:4

II. What Sin Does to God

"You thought that I (God) was just like you, ..." Psalm 50:21

1. We think God is like us, so He can be bought.

"I know the Lord will bless me now," Micah said, "because I have a Levite serving as my priest." Vs. 13

2. We think God is like us because we don't think he's any wiser than we are.

How many have said "I cannot believe in a God who would let this happen?" You're saying because I can't think of a good reason for this to have happened. If you believe there's a God big enough to have caused something, then you have to believe there's a God who's big enough to have some reason for causing it.

3. We think he's like us in our scale.

Our galaxy relates to the cluster of galaxies we're in the way a single grain of sand would relate to all the sand on all the beaches in Florida. That's how many galaxies there are, and that's just in our cluster.

*The entire universe is like a contact lens on his little finger.
Tim Keller Pastor/Author*

Do you say to somebody like that, "Please come into my life to be my assistant"? Do you say to somebody like that, "Don't call me, I'll call you"?

4. We think God is like us in His attitude toward time.

Something you remember from the distant past, God sees in the present. This is the reason why God is a God of justice. This is the reason why there has to be atonement.

You think that because you felt guilty once about something you did years ago will satisfy God's wrath.

You think I can't believe in a God who judges. That's because you've reduced God to the idea that he is like you; He isn't at all.

You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master." Genesis 4:7

III. How Can We Be Cured Of It?

In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes. Judges 17:6

"Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, for by him all things were created, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities." Colossians 1:15

Only when you can admit Jesus Christ is the image of God, and remember He died for the sin in us, will you begin to take your sin seriously.