

Little Sins?

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. "Since civil law distinguishes between petty crime (*mala prohibita*) and serious crime (*mala in se*), then God's law must therefore make similar distinctions."
 - 1. See *Criminal Law for Police Officers*, pgs 12, 295
 - 2. Catholic system of venial sin (*peccadillo*) versus mortal sin.
 - 3. Does the Bible make such distinctions?

I. LITTLE SINS AND HEROES OF FAITH

- A. Where did Moses want to go? - Ex. 3:16-17
- B. Why wasn't he permitted to go there? - Num. 20:8-12
 - 1. What did Moses do warrant such a punishment from God? He just hit the rock instead of speaking to it.
 - 2. God said that the act signified Moses' unbelief and failure to glorify Him.
- C. Why were Adam and Eve cast out of the garden? - Gen. 3:1-13, 16-24
 - 1. What was so bad about eating fruit? Seems like a misdemeanor when compared to Cain killing his brother Abel. Cain was merely exiled.
 - 2. Describe public opinion of front page of Beaver County Times told of news story "Young couple evicted into streets for eating apples off landlord's tree."
 - 3. "Elderly man banned from the land of his dreams for hitting a rock."
 - 4. Heb. 2:2 - All sins, great or small, will be punished.
- D. How do children under punishment react to being forbidden to do something they really want to do?
 - 1. How did Moses react to God's punishment? - Deut. 3:23-28
- E. What are the feelings of child when he observes others doing what he was forbidden to do?
 - 1. Jealousy, self-pity, disappointment
 - 2. Deut. 34:1-5
- F. Do you think you are better than:
 - 1. Adam and Eve? They only committed one sin.
 - 2. Moses? Second to Abraham only in righteousness.
 - 3. They were severely punished for what most would consider little sins.

II. LITTLE SINS MATTER

- A. How do you inspect a child's bedroom they were to have cleaned?
 - 1. Edges of room, under bed, in closet, under top sheet
- B. Lev. 10:1-5
 - 1. What things did they do right? Right censer, right incense, correct timing, sanctified priests, proper clothing
 - 2. What did they do wrong? Strange or profane fire?
- C. Matt. 5:18-19

III. CONSEQUENCES OF LITTLE SINS

- A. Some sins have irreparable consequences.
 - 1. Criminal record, pregnant out of wedlock, gossip, murder
 - 2. Judas' little sin of personal greed facilitated the death of Jesus.
- B. How would you react if a family member was killed due to another's little sin?
 - 1. Because some loser wants to commit the little sin of drinking alcohol, somewhere a mother, or child, or grandmother, or father may die in a liquor related accident.
 - 2. Adam's little sin meant Jesus had to go to the cross; Moses' little sin meant Jesus had to go to the cross; your little sin means Jesus had to go to the cross. God had to watch His Son die because of your little sin.
 - 3. Those who commit little sins do not care how much others may be put at risk or may be hurt; they are childishly selfish.

IV. HIDING LITTLE SINS

- A. Men believe little sins are easy to hide.
 - 1. Illegal drug use, insider trading, tax evasion, lying
- B. What happens if we try to hide our sin?
 - 1. Luke 8:17, 12:1-3; Num. 32:23

Conclusion

- A. Beware of:
 - 1. Looking lightly at sin: "It is insignificant."
 - 2. Trying to hide sins; no one will ever succeed.
 - 3. Thinking that some sins have no consequences.