

Body Building - Part Two
“Caught Red Handed” – Dealing with Sin
Pastor Dale Campfield - May 15th, 2011

Intro:

Matt 28:19 “Go and make disciples of all nations...”

ECC Process of Discipleship: Making an IMPACT...To Love...To Grow...To Serve

We have 3 priorities – To love...which is expressed in our Sunday morning celebration and connection groups. To grow...which is expressed in our Path to Discipleship. To serve...which is expressed in our daily lives in the places we live, work and play; as well as through the local church. The vision of E.C.C. is to gather together weekly for corporate worship, loving God and each other; then to come together in small Connection Groups for discipleship and fellowship, and are regularly involved in reaching out to others with the love, acceptance, and forgiveness of Jesus Christ through community outreach. To Love...To Grow...To Serve!

Premise of Series: To Build up the Body of Christ in Order to Make a Kingdom IMPACT.

Thoughts: Why does the church exist? What is our purpose? I am convinced that the first & most important part of our purpose as a church is to seek to win the lost.

And I'm certain that as long as we recognize that as our ultimate purpose, the reason we exist, is to reach the lost, then as a congregation we will continue to grow. And I tell you unashamedly, "We plan to continue growing."

In the 2nd chapter of Acts, the church in Jerusalem began on the Day of Pentecost with 3,000 members, & by the 4th chapter it had grown to 5,000 men, not counting women & children. The Bible tells us that the Lord was adding to the church daily "those who were being saved." It was a growing church, & they had a concern. "How do we take care of all these new Christians?"

One of the most exciting times in life is when a baby is born. The parents rejoice, & we all "ooh" & "ah" over it. Then they take the baby home, & reality sets in. They're changing diapers & losing sleep & trying to figure out what's wrong with the crying child. The joy of new birth is followed by the responsibility of caring for & raising that child.

It's the same way in the church. People come to the Lord & we rejoice. But then comes the responsibility of bringing these baby Christians up in the Lord. Who is going to nurture them? Who is going to teach them & pray with them? Who is going to counsel them? Who is going to encourage them?

The early church evidently did a fairly good job of that, because we read in Acts 2:42 that these early Christians "continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching & fellowship, in the breaking of bread & prayers." You see, there is a second part to our purpose, & that is to make disciples, to nurture, to build up the Christians, to help them be all that they can be in this life. Thus we need, "Body Building"; so that the body of Christ can go forth, in unity, making an IMPACT for the Kingdom of God in making disciples of all in the path of their lives.

Theme Verses: Eph. 4:11-16

Key verse 12

"Prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

Question: Why is this important?

Answer: Because the return of Christ is coming soon, and we, as the body of Christ, must do everything we can to make as great of an IMPACT for the Kingdom of God in the hearts of the people in the path of our life that we can. (Show our path to Discipleship here)

Series Overview: Here is what we will be dealing with during this series...

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Part 1 – “Caught by God”... | ...Dealing with Intimacy |
| Part 2 – “Caught Red Handed”... | ...Dealing with Sin |
| Part 3 – “Caught Empty Handed”... | ...Dealing with Giving |
| Part 4 – “Caught Loose Lipped”... | ...Dealing with Strife |
| Part 5 – “Caught without Excuse”... | ...Dealing with Confusion |
| Part 6 – “Caught Silent Lipped”... | ...Dealing with Worship |

Let’s continue.....

Part 2 – “Caught Red Handed”... ...Dealing with Sin

Romans 14:11

For it is written: “*As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.*”

Either now or later, all will bow and confess He is Lord. You can either bow now in your timing with God, or you’ll bow later in God’s timing with you.

Number 32:23

Be sure your sin will find you out.

2 Samuel 12:12

What you do in secret will be made known in public.

Luke 8:17

Nothing is hidden that won’t be exposed. Nor is anything concealed that won’t be made known and brought to the light.

Let’s take a look at those who have been Caught Red Handed in the Bible...

Example #1: Adam and Eve

First, we see that they were not ashamed and walked freely in the garden.

Genesis 2:25

²⁵ And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Then it all changes after they have sinned and partook of the forbidden fruit.

Genesis 3:8

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Example #2: Cain and Able

It then moves to the story of Adam and Eve's kids... See how Cain tried his best to pretend like he didn't know what God was talking about. But God did. And the punishment followed.

Genesis 4:8-9

⁸ Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where *is* Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. *Am* I my brother's keeper?"

Example #3: Samson and Delilah

Samson... He didn't even know, suddenly, everyone knew...

Judges 16:20-21

²⁰ And she said, "The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him.

²¹ Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison.

Example #4: Moses and the Egyptian

Moses...suddenly, everyone knew...

Exodus 2:11-14

¹¹ Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. ¹² So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. ¹³ And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you striking your companion?"

¹⁴ Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?"

So Moses feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!"

Example #5: Achan becomes Bacon

You see we are all Achans from time to time—and when we are----our sins causes aching in our lives----and so often in the lives of those around us. However----these verses tell us that God has a prescription for an Achan heart

Text: Joshua 7:10-26

This morning's text follows a very well known Bible story: The fall of Jericho. After Israel had

defeated Jericho, God gave them explicit instructions to not take any of the city's riches, but to leave everything behind. Not long after, Joshua, the Israelite leader, sent spies to scope out the next city of war: Ai. The spies returned and said that they would need very few men to beat such a weak city as Ai. So Joshua sent only a few thousand men to fight.

The men of Ai killed 36 of the Israelite men and chased the rest away. Joshua was heartbroken. He tore his clothes and fell to the earth in front of the Ark of the Covenant.

Joshua asked God why He would allow the Israelites to pass through the Jordan, defeat Jericho and then be beaten by a small and insignificant city like Ai!

God's answer was simple. There was sin in the camp. One of the Israelite men named Achan had ignored God's command to leave everything behind in Jericho and had taken some of the "accursed things" and put them among his own belongings.

Joshua 7:1

The Lord's anger burned against Israel.

The blessing of God had left the camp because of the harboring of sin. Subsequently the army failed in its mission because it lacked the power of God it held when it had defeated Jericho.

Joshua 7:12

I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction.

Joshua 7:21

They are hidden in the ground inside my tent.

Achan was forced to confess his sin, and was then taken along with his family and all of his flocks and herds, and stoned to death.

Joshua 7:25

Then all Israel stoned him, and after they had stoned the rest, they burned them.

An amazing story, to say the least...

One might even go as far as to say that the story shows that God is unfair. They might say that Achan's punishment did not really fit his crime.

But I want you to consider this tonight:
Because of Achan's sin thirty-six men died...
Thirty-six sets of children lost their fathers...
Thirty-six mothers lost their sons...
Thirty-six wives became widows.

The story of Achan truly points out the potency of sin. It also uncovers some of the myths that surround sin. I am going to share those with you this morning:

MYTHS THAT SURROUND SIN

I. Myth #1: One Sin Won't Hurt

a. Achan probably thought his sin was so small and insignificant, that it would not be that important.

b. The truth is one sin does hurt

Just ask:

1. Adam and Eve (Caused eternal separation from God with a single sin)
2. Moses (Forfeited entering the Promised Land on account of a single sin)
3. Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron (Died by fire because of a single sin)
4. Uzzah (Died instantly for improperly touching the Ark)
5. Ananias and Saphira (Died instantly for lying to the Holy Ghost)

Let me ask you a question: Would it be OK for you to cheat on you spouse one time? Could you imagine trying to justify yourself to him or her by saying it was only 'one time'!

When we choose to allow continual sin in our lives, we are cheating on God. We often forget that when we transgress the law, we are sinning against God

1. David, who broke all of the laws of God – didn't say, "Oh, I have sinned against my friends, against Bathsheeba, against Uriah". David said, "I have sinned against God!"
2. Psalm 51:4 "Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight-That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge."
3. Joseph, when tempted sexually by his Potiphar wife, didn't say, "I couldn't sin against Potiphar" but he said, "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Genesis 39:9)

We need to see sin how God sees sin. Not as a little thing at all. But as a transgression against him – cheating on Him. If we see it that way, we will feel the same way He does – He hates it and so will we!

II. Myth #2: One Person's Sin Doesn't Affect Anyone Else

a. Achan's sin affected the entire nation

All Israel suffered rebuke from God (v.1)

All Israel suffered defeat (v.2-5)

Illustration: “My life, my choice” is an all too common cry from some that believe what they do has no affect on anyone else.

Tell that to the:

1. Estimated 17,419 people who died in alcohol-related traffic crashes in 2002
2. Parents of 239 children ages 0-14 who died in 2002 because they were riding with someone who was under the influence
3. 4000 children who die in the womb everyday at the hands of doctors who care more about money than they do about morals

Many of us refuse to see that there are others who often suffer consequences for our sins

III. Myth #3: One Can Keep Their Sin Hidden

- a. Achan really thought that the darkness of his tent would hide his transgression

The Bible declares in Numbers 32:23 that our “sins will find us out” because...

- b. Sin is never hidden from God

Hebrews 4:12-13 “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

You may think that you are pulling one over on God if you have sin in your life, or that he doesn't care – but you're not and He does!

- c. Sin is not often hidden from others either. Remember when Moses killed the Egyptian? He didn't think anyone knew. But the next day, he found out that he was known for being a murderer

Just remember, your sins will find you out

1. If you're a gossip – most people know you're a gossip
2. If you're a mean person – most people know you're a mean person
3. If you're a drunk – most people know you're a drunk

And you shouldn't worry about what these people think because you fear their judgment

1. But because you say you love God, and you wear the name of Christ

2. And what you do in life mirrors who you are in Christ

d. So if you're not able to hide from God – and you're not really able to hide from others – All you're doing is really kidding yourself when you try to hide your sins

Conclusion:

I would never tell anyone that a trial is evidence of sin in his or her life. I have heard pastors who say that if I am sick, or hurting or going through some difficulty it is because of some unrepentant sin that I have yet to confess.

This is not always true, because God tests us at His will – Just remember the trials of Job, a man the scripture called blameless

However, if you're going through a trial, you may want to give yourself an inventory, and see if you are out of God's Will.

Example: Man: Yes, pastor, I am having trouble in my life and don't know why

Pastor: Well, why don't you start by telling me about your home life

Man: Well, you know, I have my daughter and her boyfriend living together in my spare room because they're 'in love', and ...well, I spend about half my check on alcohol, but I make good money, so that's OK, and, oh yeah... I am sleeping with my secretary, but its Ok because my wife is cool with that sort of thing. BOY, I sure wish I could figure out what's wrong!

Pastor: [Thinking but not saying: Well, Duh! This is what we call a Biblical no-brainer!]

So I ask you: Is there sin in your camp this morning?

Are you transgressing the law of God at home? At work? At play?

Or maybe it is not you who are living in sin, but you are allowing sin in your home.

Whatever the situation, God's prescription is not that we cover up this transgression in our life, but that we get rid of it!

Let me give you one more example as we close...

Example #6: David and Bathsheba

End with this one...David killing Uriah the Hittite because of Bathsheba. Let's look at what David did. He was a man after God's own heart, yet he sinned with Bathsheba and even went as far as killing a man to try and hide the secret. But, he did get caught. Let's look at his response to God and see what we can learn.

2 Samuel 11:27

²⁷ And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

May we have the response to God with the sin in our lives that David had with God.

Psalm 51

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

- ¹ Have mercy upon me, O God,
 According to Your lovingkindness;
 According to the multitude of Your tender mercies,
 Blot out my transgressions.
- ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
 And cleanse me from my sin.
- ³ For I acknowledge my transgressions,
 And my sin *is* always before me.
- ⁴ Against You, You only, have I sinned,
 And done *this* evil in Your sight—
 That You may be found just when You speak,
 And blameless when You judge.
- ⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
 And in sin my mother conceived me.
- ⁶ Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,
 And in the hidden *part* You will make me to know wisdom.
- ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
 Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ Make me hear joy and gladness,
 That the bones You have broken may rejoice.
- ⁹ Hide Your face from my sins,
 And blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
 And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence,
 And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
 And uphold me *by Your* generous Spirit.
- ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,
 And sinners shall be converted to You.
- ¹⁴ Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
 The God of my salvation,
 And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.
- ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
 And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.
- ¹⁶ For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give *it*;

- You do not delight in burnt offering.
- ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit,
A broken and a contrite heart—
These, O God, You will not despise.
- ¹⁸ Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion;
Build the walls of Jerusalem.
- ¹⁹ Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness,
With burnt offering and whole burnt offering;
Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

Be sure church, He is coming back for a pure bride. It's time to come clean. It's time to be Caught by God, dealing with our sin, and deal with that sin appropriately.

And as you do.... You wait, you watch, you'll see!