

The Saddest Word

***Genesis 4:7 NIV** - ⁷ If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, **sin is crouching at your door**; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

What is the saddest word in the Bible and in human speech?

- ***Some thought that it was*** death; others, Hell; others, Depart; and many voted for Lost.

But what is the saddest word?

- What is the word that is the fountain of sorrow....
- The mother of sorrows...
- As universal as human nature...
- As eternal as human history?????

What is the word that is the cause of all –

- War and violence and hatred and sorrow and pain?
- What is the word that is man's worst enemy?

What is the word that nailed JESUS to the Cross? *The Saddest word -*

That word is sin. "Sin Croucheth at the door"—Genesis 4:7

And there, ever since, with its sorrow and its distress, **sin has been crouching at humanity's door**, and **will continue** to crouch.

This is not the first appearance of sin, but the first mention of sin, and the first appearance of *the final fruit of sin*.

James 1:15 NIV - Then, after desire (**Lust**) has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown (**finished**), gives birth to (**Brings**) death.

Here, then, you have **death**, the first murder, the first **death of man**, ***as the finished work of sin***.

This is the beginning of the long, sad chapter of sin

- A chapter which comes to a close only with *the last chapter of the Bible*
- **When** there shall be no more curse and no more sin.

All the sorrow, distress, bitterness, violence, heartache, shame and tragedy -

- **Between** man's creation and fall and -
- **His final redemption and restoration to the image of God**
- Is summed up in that **one word, SIN**.

Lost is, indeed, a sad word; so sad that **only Christ** who came to seek and to save the lost would seem to have the right to pronounce it.

But through what are men Lost?

- **Lost** through their sin.
- **Lost** to themselves
- And **lost to God**.

They are lost through sin!

- When we **don't deal with effects but with causes** -
- There is **no doubt** that sin is the saddest word.....

This morning I want to show **the sadness of sin!**

- **By illustration** in the lives of people in the Bible,
- **By an appearance of what sin did** in the lives of people in the Bible.

The Bible is the perfect and eternal mirror of the human heart,

- You can be sure that what sin did in the lives of people in the Bible
 - It is doing in the lives of People today.
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***Cain and the Sadness of Sin in Personal and Family Life**

There was something wrong with Cain before he brought his offering.

- **God's displeasure and rejection of Cain's offering, and**
- **His acceptance of the offering of Abel,**
- **Was not because of what Cain brought, The firstlings of the field,**
- Or **what Abel brought, the first fruits of his flocks.**

The trouble was in the heart of Cain.

God said, warning him, If you don't do what's right, sin is crouching at your door

This sin in the heart of Cain was quickly followed,

- For sin multiplies rapidly,
- By the sin of mankind - sin painted man's face
- With the dark colors of hatred and jealousy.

Hate lifted its hand and the first murder was committed

- The blood of Abel cried for vengeance from the ground,
- Stained for the first time, but not for the last, with the blood of man.

Here, at the very beginning of man's history -

- We have a powerful demonstration of the sorrow and havoc of sin
- In personal and family relationships.
- This was a brother who slew his brother.

Life has its struggles, hardships and trials, but where love and loyalty light the way all things can be endured.

- Bitterness and sadness are in the sins of personal and family relationships.
 - This is the real burden and load of life.
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***Saul and the Sadness of Sin in a gifted life**

There is always something likable and appealing in Saul.

In many respects he was a great man,

- Head and shoulders over all Israel, not only in stature-
- But in moral qualities such as courage, patriotism, humility, and affection.
- His choice for the first king of Israel seems well justified.

The pride and disobedience, reliance upon himself instead of God, show in his life, and

- When he had been rejected and another chosen in his place,
- Then jealousy begins to rage in his heart.

We find him seeking to kill his son whom he loved,

- And **David** his best friend, who had **charmed away** the evil spirit that had tormented Saul.

Then, abandoned by Samuel, rejected and forsaken by God,

- Saul goes at midnight to consult the witch
- And call up dishonored and neglected Samuel,
- Who pronounces upon him tomorrow's doom,
- "Tomorrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me."

There you see **what sin can do** to a great and gifted life.

No wonder Samuel wept all night over Saul and his fall,

- No wonder that **David**, in the most beautiful poem ever spoken by man,
- Lamented over the loss of Saul,
- His shield and his bow cast away as if he had not been anointed with oil.

Sin spares none.

It strikes for the highest and most spiritually successful & **tries** to make it's mark.

I wonder how many times **the story of Saul has been repeated?**

- Men/Women with preeminent gifts and notable talents **have been broken, dishonored, and dethroned by sin.**
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***David and the Sadness of sin in a Godly Man**

David was a godly man, and his every natural impulse was God-ward.

That is true in spite of all the ridicule and obstacles that **David had faced**.

On one side of his life he was, indeed, **a man after God's own heart**. This was **noted of David before his fall, not after it**.

But one day in battle, when **David should have been** at the head of his army, which was at war, he remained at home.

Relaxing one night on the roof of his palace, **he saw a beautiful woman and was charmed by her** and entertained the lust in his flesh, he took her for his own.

That was **not** the first nor **the last** time that this has happened.

But **David's great adulterous sin** was followed by something **much worse** –

- The cruel and treacherous **murder** of the woman's husband
- Who happened to be *David's loyal officer* in the army.
- That is **the story of David's fall**.

Who is this that we see prostrate in the dust?

And **who cries** for forgiveness?

Who is this that urgently asks God not to cast him away from His presence?

Not to take His Spirit from him?

David, is it YOU? YOU, the ruddy youth who **kept the sheep** on the hillside, the youth who **slew both the lion and the bear**?

David, is it YOU, the youth who of all **the sons of Jesse was chosen** by Samuel to be the **king of Israel**?

David, is it YOU, the youth who with his sling and his trust in God slew that Giant called Goliath?

David, is it YOU, who with your harp did drive out the evil spirit from oppressed Saul?

David, is it YOU who when **Saul, your enemy,** was in your hand, did twice spare him, **refusing to smite the Lord's anointed**?

David, is it YOU, the singer of the Psalms which still breathe and express, the grandest **faith and trust**, the **deepest sorrows of the Christian**?

Yes, **David, it is YOU!**

Holy angels, **withdraw; from this man** of God **that has** greatly fallen.

Withdraw! Withdraw and leave me to mourn alone over this **adulterer and murderer** who once was the man after my own heart.

Sin, even the worst of sins, attacks the godly Person.

No past devotion, no past confession, no past prayers, not yesterday's resolve and repentance,

- Only the **repentance and the faith and the prayers of today** -
 - Can keep us out of temptation and deliver us from sin.
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***Peter And The Sadness of Sin as a Disciple of Christ**

It is **midnight** on the night of nights. **The fire burns in the courtyard** of the high priests. **Servants, soldiers, and two disciples** are standing about that fire.

A door opens into a chamber off the courtyard and **Jesus is led out,**

- bleeding from **the cruel blows** which have been showered upon Him, **mocked, insulted, and spat upon**.

At that moment a loud angry voice rings out through the courtyard, saying with a loud voice, **"I never knew him!"**

Who was this apostle that denied Jesus?

- **Is it the man whom** his brother Andrew brought to Christ,
- And when Jesus saw him he said, **"Thy name is Simon.**
- From this point forward you shall be **Peter, the Rock"**?

Is it the man who fell at the feet of Christ in the fishing boat and sounded the prayer, **"Depart from me, O God, for I am a sinful man"?**

Is it the man who when Christ asked his disciples to tell Him **who he was, confessed, **"Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God"?****

Is it the man who, when many of his disciples forsook Him, answered the question of Jesus, **"Will you also leave me and go away?"**

With that great word which still in every crisis in life keeps the follower of Christ from unbelief, "Lord, to whom shall we go? Only you have the words of Eternal Life"?

Is it the man who said though all others forsook Christ he would not leave him?

Is it the man who with splendid courage drew his sword, and fearlessly faced the mob in the garden of Gethsemane?

- Yes, Peter, it is YOU! YOU are the man!

All of heaven's sorrow and amazement is in that look of Christ when He looked upon Peter that night, and the saddest tears that were ever wept were the tears of Peter when he went out that night and wept bitterly.

These men show in their life's history the sadness of sin, that sin is the saddest word in the Bible.

The Bible is the **perfect and eternal mirror** of the human heart.

- Folks, this is not just **past history**, or just **Biblical history**.

No, read the newspapers, read the best sellers, read the story of the lives of men and women in your world -

- And you will see **that the sin of Cain, man's extremely cruel and brutal behavior**, still makes the earth a sad place;

Gifted and noble people like:

- Saul are wrecked and ruined by sin.
 - **Godly men like David** can be brought low **by the sins of the flesh...**
 - **Men and women who follow Jesus**, and in their hearts love Him...
 - Can yet strangely and sadly deny Him.
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***In closing this morning:**

Let me say that there is one more life, which reveals the supreme sadness of sin.

- Three crosses on a lonely, barren, skull-shaped hill –
- **Their on this cross a man with a crown of thorns** on his head
- **Blood flowing from his hands, his feet and his side** -
- While **those in front of His cross jeer at Him and mock Him**.

Who is this man???

He's the Son of man, the Son of God, the One altogether lovely, the Prince of Peace.

This is He before whom seraphim and cherubim fall down and veil their faces. And yet He hangs bleeding, reviled, and forsaken on a cursed tree!

What brought Him there?

What made Jesus cry out, "Behold and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow"?

It was SIN! - Your sin and my sin nailed Him to the Cross.

- There we behold the deepest and darkest sadness of sin.

But wait! Sin has extended itself on the cross:

The Blow that Sin brought to the Son of God allowed Him to retaliate with a blow called Washed, Cleansed, Forgiven, Set Free....

Liberation is now available to all victims of this saddest word, **SIN**.

Sin's masterpiece of sadness became God's masterpiece of forgiveness and mercy.

- Christ's death became the foundation of our hope, the predication of our triumph.
- Therefore, the saddest word and the saddest theme become the gladdest word and the most joyful theme in history.

This world has too much sadness in it caused by sin.

Let's not add to the sadness, but rather, let's partake in the gladness that the sin bearer brought through calvary.

Has anyone here this morning been hurt by sin?

Is anyone heartbroken from sin?

- **Then Come to the Cross.....**kneel right here.
- Here is the remedy. **EARTH hath no sorrow that HEAVEN cannot heal.....**