

What Little Sins Do

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Prov. 6:6-11

There are many small things in this world with which we can learn.

Consider the ant.

Prov. 6:6-11, *“Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.”*

It is very small; considered insignificant.

People want to prevent the killing of deer, seals, monkeys, dogs, etc.

God numerous times has told His people to kill animals, that they were put here for man. Gen. 1:28-30. *“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.”*

However, these same people who say that killing of animals is wrong think nothing of eating chicken or a hamburger, or of killing a mouse, stepping on an ant or spider, or swatting a fly or mosquito.

They think that these are so small they don't matter.

Today, there is a tendency to “wink” at sin

Some people prefer to call it a “personality” problem, rather than sin.

Others say, “Don't be so narrow-minded” or “That's such a little thing.” We hear about “little” sins and “big” sins, “white lies”. “half truths”, “I had my fingers crossed.”

True, some sins carry smaller consequences in this life; this does not mean, however, that God views one sin any different than He does another.

We need to see sin as God sees it.

- Ungodly (against Holy God).
- Ugly (can't imagine how terrible).
- Deadly (destroys in time and eternity).

How does God view sin? Habakkuk 1:13, *"Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?"*

Don't even look upon evil.

Note some results of so-called "little" sins

Small things can spoil.

Small flies spoil.

Eccl. 10:1, *"Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour."*

Small dead flies cause an offensive aroma to something that was intended to smell good. Small dead flies can spoil food.

A little folly spoils someone who is considered wise and honorable. He loses his good influence.

A little mischievous fun?

Little foxes spoil the grape vines.

Songs of Solomon 2:15, *"Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes."*

I don't know the specific nature of the damage foxes do, other than eating the grapes, but it sounds like they also damage the vines.

A small cabbage worm can spoil the entire cabbage head for marketing.

Small things can grow into big things.

Leavening.

1 Cor. 5:6-7, *“Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.”*

Action of yeast in bread makes it to grow rapidly.

A small stone causes a ripple to spread across a pond.

Thistles can take over a field.

Years ago, there was not a single thistle in the whole of Australia. A Scotsman, who very much admired thistles, thought it a pity that such a great island should be without that plant. He therefore placed a thistle seed in a packet, and sent it over to one of his friends in Australia. Well, when it landed, the customs officers may have said, “Oh, let it in; is it not a little one? It is only to be sewn in a garden.” Yes, it was but a little one; but now whole districts of the country are covered with it, and it has become the farmer’s pest and plague. It was a little one, but it became a big nuisance. Take heed of the thistle seed; little sins are like it. (I wonder if it was this same Scotsman who brought Scotch Broom to the northwestern part of The United States?).

A small thing caused the fall of man

Forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden.

Satan’s “little” lie: *“Thou shalt not surely die.”*

The result of that “little” sin was death.

- Rom. 5:14, *“Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.”*
- 1 Cor. 15:22, *“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”*

There will be masses in Hell because of “little” sins.

This should establish the importance of obeying God.

Many in the Bible were punished because of “little” sins

Nadab and Abihu.

Lev. 10:1-2, 10, *“And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. ... And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean,”*

“After all, fire is fire.”

They were destroyed for their “little” sin.

Uzzah.

2 Sam. 6:3-4, 6-7, *“And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drave the new cart. And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which was at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark. ... And when they came to Nachon’s threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God.”*

Uzzah touched the ark and died.

It was not a malicious act.

Most would view his act of touching the ark as a “little” thing.

Achan.

Joshua 7:1-26. *“But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel. And Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Bethaven, on the east side of Bethel, and spake unto them, saying, Go up and view the country. And the men went up and viewed Ai. And they returned to Joshua, and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai; and make not all the people to labour thither; for they are but few. So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai. And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them from before the gate even unto Shebarim, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water. And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to*

the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads. And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord GOD, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? would to GOD we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan! O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies! For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name? And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff. Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you. Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you. In the morning therefore ye shall be brought according to your tribes: and it shall be, that the tribe which the LORD taketh shall come according to the families thereof; and the family which the LORD shall take shall come by households; and the household which the LORD shall take shall come man by man. And it shall be, that he that is taken with the accursed thing shall be burnt with fire, he and all that he hath: because he hath transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he hath wrought folly in Israel. So Joshua rose up early in the morning, and brought Israel by their tribes; and the tribe of Judah was taken: And he brought the family of Judah; and he took the family of the Zarhites: and he brought the family of the Zarhites man by man; and Zabdi was taken: And he brought his household man by man; and Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken. And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me. And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done: When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it. So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, it was hid in his tent, and the silver under it. And

they took them out of the midst of the tent, and brought them unto Joshua, and unto all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD. And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor. And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones. And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day."

What's wrong with taking a few spoils of war? "Nothing," many would reply.

Achan had this concept.

His "little" sin cost not only his life, but his family's life also. No one was to take anything from the destroyed city of Jericho; but Achan had taken some treasures and hid them in the earth under his tent. They were all stoned to death.

Ananias and Sapphira.

Acts 5:1-6, "But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him."

They thought a "little" sin of concealment or lying was okay.

They lied to God.

What "little" sins do today

In the business world.

There is a little dishonesty in most people, but most people are not going to heaven.

"Little sins" send tax evaders to jail; bankrupt businesses"; some people have lost their jobs over small sins; they cause shame and embarrassment.

In marriages.

Some say, “A little unfaithfulness is expected in most marriages.”

It causes divorces and broken homes; leaves children without parents; leaves broken hearts and ruined lives.

What “little” sins do eternally

They cause the second death (an eternal separation from God).

Isa. 59:1-8, “Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity. They hatch cockatrice’ eggs, and weave the spider’s web: he that eateth of their eggs dieth, and that which is crushed breaketh out into a viper. Their webs shall not become garments, neither shall they cover themselves with their works: their works are works of iniquity, and the act of violence is in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths. The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.”

God doesn’t hear the prayers of a sinner. Repent.

They cause eternal punishment.

Rev. 21:8, “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

They cause an eternity with the ungodly of all ages.

This should show how bad “little” sins really are.

Conclusion

Don't let "little" sins control your destiny.

James 3:4-6, *"Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell."*

We must abandon the "little" sin concept.

All sin is terrible, and will find you out.

If you are guilty of "little" sins, you need to recognize their consequences, and repent — make a real effort to not continue doing them.

"The big things of life show who we are. The little things of life show what we are!" (Unknown source.)

Life is forever tripping over the small things.

