

Your Sins Will Find You Out

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In Genesis 4:3-10 we read about the first murder. Cain killed Abel out of jealousy and envy. He then denied it to God, trying to keep a sin secret. But God told him that his crime was clear, and that Abel's blood called out from the ground. This is a lesson to us: sins cannot remain a secret.

Similarly, in Joshua 7:6-25 we read about Achan hiding the treasure of Jericho in his home. All of Israel suffered because of this. Consider that it was more important to God that sin be revealed than for the Israelites to conquer Canaan. Finally, we read in Acts 5:1-10 about Annanias and Saphira. They thought that their lies were their own, but they were exposed to terrible consequences. God's word is true when He said: "But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the LORD, and be sure your sin will find you out." (Numbers 32:23).

Our sins WILL be revealed because God works AGAINST our plans to hide sin. We see this from several points. First, He has created CONSEQUENCES to reveal sin (Proverbs 26:26). Secondly, God desires to prevent our hypocrisy (Luke 12:1-3). Third, sin that we hide is sin that cannot be forgiven. God's desire is our salvation; therefore, He must reveal our sins in order to save us from sin (Hebrews 12:9-11).

At the same time God works against our efforts to hide sin, man does too. Men love to reveal the hypocrisy of believers. Peter warned us of the need to have good conduct so that we are not accused of sin (1 Peter 3:8-17). Nathan told David that his hiding of sin was known to the world; "by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme....."(2 Samuel 12:14a).

If God Himself is working against us when we hide sin, why do we even do it? Probably because we do not think we can deal with sin, which is true to an extent. We are told that we must all admit we struggle with sin (1 John 1:8-10). It is obvious that admission is superior to exposition (James 5:16-20). What prevents our confession? Perhaps it is pride or fear (Colossians 3:8-13).

As the household of faith, we need to learn to deal with confession. Paul told the Corinthians to be attentive to the one who revealed his sin and desired to return in 2 Corinthians 2:5-9. In Galatians 6:1-2 we are told to be mindful of each other when we sin. Let us be clear: the church that Jesus built needs to be a place where confession is natural, and where there is comfort to the confessor of sin. We need to make certain we foster this environment amongst ourselves.

Be certain that sins will be found out. It will happen because God wants it for righteousness and because men want it for wickedness. Never doubt it. On the other side of this, we as Christians need to be ready to handle sin when it is confessed or exposed. First of all, our own sins in our own lives, and secondly, when it is those whom we are in a faith family relationship.