

ANATOMY OF SIN

MATTHEW 21:33-46

Community Group Study Guide
Week of April 14, 2019



MOSAIC BOSTON
LOVE. JESUS. SIMPLE.

This week, we we looked at another common depiction of sin, which is sin as self-destruction or suicide. From the very beginning, God promised that to eat the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden would result in certain death. Nevertheless, Adam and Eve, following the serpents cynical deceit, chose to rebel against God's rule and to search for autonomy apart from Him. From the outside looking in, sin always seems like insanity. It is nonsensical to turn against the giver of "every good and perfect gift", and yet that is what each and every one of us have done by choosing sin. Sin lies to deceive us, but then causes us to act completely irrational and ultimately both suicidal and hostile toward God.

Matthew 21 records the events of Jesus life during his final week before the crucifixion. Jesus makes a triumphal entry into the city as crowds shout "Hosanna!" Almost, immediately, however, Jesus' authority is challenged by the religion leaders, and He answers them with a series of parables. These parables reveal his identity as the Son of God and the Messiah that God's people had been longing for. They also reveal the reality that as the Messiah he would be rejected and murdered by the very people He came to save. Millenia after the rebellion of Adam and Eve, God's people were still on a self-destructive path of honoring Him with their lips, but ultimately keeping him at bay to maintain their false sense of independence and control over their own lives.

While the religious leaders of Jerusalem appeared to be seeking God, they were in fact running from God while attempting to refashion a false god that could be used to their own advantage. When the true God of the Universe stood before them, He threatened their delusions of power and control and so they quickly sought to have him killed. The beautiful irony is that the murder of Jesus is the very thing that God uses to kill the hostile that every one of us holds against Him. In the parable, the owner oddly sends his own son to address the murderous tenants. They deserved death, but they were offered scandalous mercy. The cross of Jesus is the only thing that can kill the lie that Satan first introduced to Adam and Eve. Jesus set his face resolutely toward Jerusalem and walked the path to His own destruction, in order to save us from our own. Satan leads mankind to believe that sin is a good thing that a bad god is keeping us from enjoying. The cross, however, proves the badness of sin, and the goodness of God. Sin is not good or appealing, but destructive and deadly. God is not a cruel or petty despot, but a good and loving Father. His commands are not burdensome fences to constrain us from something good, but guardrails to protect us from everything that is bad.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand the that apart from Jesus we are all irrationally hostile toward God and His authority over us.

Heart

To look to the cross and trust that sin is always bad for us, and God's commands mercifully given for our own good and flourishing.

Hands

To fight temptation and put sin to death with the Gospel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership or Baptism:

Contact admin@mosaicboston.com to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

Mosaic JP:

Please keep Mosaic JP and other faithful Boston church plants in your prayers. If your CG would like to serve Mosaic JP together on a Sunday please contact andy@mosaicboston.com.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 21:33-46

- What initially stood out to you about the text or sermon? What did you learn? What questions or comments do you have?
- How does the metaphor of sin as self-destruction or suicide deepen or refine the way you look at sin?
- It's shocking and seemingly illogical that the owner would send his son to the vineyard after all this had taken place. What is Jesus trying to communicate to these leaders, and why do they not seem to get it?
- Scripture tells us that apart from Jesus we are all enemies of God and hostile toward Him and his authority over us. What fears or lies might we believe about God and his Authority that would cause our hostility. How does the Gospel free us from these lies?
- What are some of the big ideas and applications you have take away from this sermon series?

Prayer Time: As we approach Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday, please make some extra time for prayer this week in your group. Repent of sin together, thank God for the Gospel and the grace we have in Jesus, and pray for any people that you and the members of your CG will be inviting to church on Easter. Also, please remind everyone to Join us this Friday at 7pm for a Good Friday service. All Easter Sunday services will be at their normal times.