Radical Salvation – 1
The Horror of Human Sinfulness

Isa. 59:1-15

Is. 59:1-2 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

I. The Tragic Consequences of Human Sinfulness

Is. 59:1-2 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save,
or his ear dull, that it cannot hear...

But…
your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and
your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

Human sin creates a barrier between people and God.

Every good thing people can enjoy is inseparable from God.

Ps. 104:27-29 These all look to you, to give them their food in due season. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

1 Cor. 4:7 For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

Deut. 8:17-18 Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

Is. 59:1-2 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save,
or his ear dull, that it cannot hear..

But…

your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,
and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

Jer. 5:23-25 But this people have a stubborn and rebellious heart; they have turned aside and gone away. They do not say in their hearts, 'Let us fear the LORD our God, who gives the rain in its season, the autumn rain and the spring rain, and keeps for us the weeks appointed for the harvest.' Your iniquities have turned these away, and your sins have kept good from you.

Is. 59:1-2 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save,
or his ear dull, that it cannot hear..
But…

your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,
and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

Num. 6:23-26 Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Life without God's grace—that is what hell is.

II. The Nature of Human Sinfulness

A. Unrighteous Thinking

Is. 59:3-4 For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies; your tongue mutters wickedness. No one enters suit justly; no one goes to law honestly; they rely on empty pleas, they speak lies, they conceive mischief and give birth to iniquity.

Rom. 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

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Prov. 12:22 Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who act faithfully are his delight.

Is. 59:3-4 For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies; your tongue mutters wickedness. No one enters suit justly; no one goes to law honestly; they rely on empty pleas, they speak lies, they conceive mischief and give birth to iniquity.

A test question:
To what extent are your thoughts aligned with God's truth?

B. Unrighteous Feelings and Desires

Is. 59:4-6 No one enters suit justly; no one goes to law honestly; they rely on empty pleas, they speak lies, they conceive mischief and give birth to iniquity. They hatch adders' eggs; they weave the spider's web; he who eats their eggs dies, and from one that is crushed a viper is hatched. Their webs will not serve as clothing; men will not cover themselves with what they make. Their works are works of iniquity, and deeds of violence are in their hands.

James 1:14-15 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

A sinful desire is any desire that is born out of falsehood.

A test question:
Which of your desires are born out of false beliefs?

C. Unrighteous Actions

Mat. 15:19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.

Mat. 5:21-22 You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment;

Mat. 5:27-28 You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Is. 59:7-9 Their feet run to evil, and they are swift to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; desolation and destruction are in their highways. The way of peace they do not know, and there is no justice in their paths; they have made their roads crooked; no one who treads on them knows peace. Therefore justice is far from us, and righteousness does not overtake us; we hope for light, and behold, darkness, and for brightness, but we walk in gloom.

Is. 59:10 We grope for the wall like the blind; we grope like those who have no eyes; we stumble at noon as in the twilight, among those in full vigor we are like dead men.

Is. 59:15 Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. The LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice.

Rom. 3:9-17 … For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”
“Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.” “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” “Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known.”

Is. 59:20-21 “And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,” declares the LORD. “And as for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the LORD: “My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children's offspring,” says the LORD, “from this time forth and forevermore.”

Reflections for Prayer

- Sin begins with a lie taking root in the mind.
- Sin in the mind inevitably produces sinful feelings and desires.
- Sinful feelings and desires lead to sinful actions.
- Sin separates a person from God, preventing them from enjoying His favor.
- People whose hearts are ruled by sin have neither the right nor the ability to demand any blessing from God.
- God's favor can be received only in Christ and only for Christ's sake.