

Jesus.

Week 5 of 8 : StartingPointGroup.org

INTRODUCTION

Guilt is powerful. Shame can be crippling. We all have things in our pasts that haunt us. We have sin. It only takes a word, a picture, or a name to bring it all back. We know we can do better from this point forward, but how are we supposed to fix the past? We can say we're sorry. We can ask for forgiveness. But some of the things we've done hang over our lives like a cloud. ***What can wash away our sins?***

LISTENING GUIDE

What can wash away my sin?

- The excuses we make: *"I was young, drunk, angry, lonely, broke, or didn't know better."*
- The real issue is **FORGIVENESS**: *"Is there a way I can forgive myself and finally be done with what I did?"*
- The other issue is **DEBT**: *"I owe it to myself . . ."*
- The question you must **ANSWER**: *"Am I a mistaker or a sinner?"*
- *"Every religious system offers an answer to the question of what to do when we can't forgive ourselves. But only one person ever offered himself as the solution."*
- *"Any religious leader who claims to be the solution is either crazy, or is lying, or we should listen to that person."*

Mark 1:5

The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him.

- The Religious leaders asked John the Baptist: *"Are you the Messiah?"*
Here was his answer . . .

John 1:26-27

“I baptize with water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.”

John 1:29

*“Look, the Lamb of God . . .
who takes away . . .
the sin of the world!”*

- Jesus gathered with his disciples at “*The Last Supper*” and told them that he was the final “*Passover Lamb*.”
- Jesus told his disciples that “*His Body*” and “*His Blood*” was the final sacrifice to cover our sin.

Colossians 2:13-14

He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

Q: What can wash away my sin?

A: Nothing but the blood of Jesus my Savior.

- The payment of Jesus cancelled your debt to God and your debt to yourself.
- “*You do not have to forgive yourself, because yourself has already been forgiven.*”

Q: What do I do with all the memories, guilt, and shame?

A: You replace it with God’s grace, forgiveness, and love!

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Q: Have you ever received God’s forgiveness through Jesus?

Prayer of Salvation:

Heavenly Father, I believe.

I believe that when Jesus died - it paid for my sin.

I believe that he's the Savior of the world.

I believe that nothing I do will ever pay for my sin.

I need YOU to pay for it.

I believe that Jesus death paid for my sin.

*So, I'm placing all my trust in Christ's death
on the cross as the full payment for my sin.*

I believe you just "Picked it up and you carried it away."

*Help me to remember in those times when the guilt and
the shame come crowding back in, to simply stop and
thank you for what has been done for me - in Jesus name!*

Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

“Experiencing personal forgiveness for personal sin is often the Starting point for personal faith.”

1. What do you wish you could do over?
2. Do you believe you need forgiveness? Why or why not?
3. Why was Jesus’ death necessary?
4. **Salvation is believing and receiving the free gift of Jesus as the full and final payment for your sin.** Have you done that?
5. During the message, Andy said . . . *“You are trying to pay for sin that has been paid for. Your role is to accept what has already been done for you.”* If that’s true, how would it change your view of faith? How might it change the way you live?
6. What is one thing you can do to begin to build new memorials of forgiveness to replace the memorials to your past failures and sin?
What can this group do to support you?

“You don’t have to forgive yourself, because yourself has already been forgiven.”

MOVING FORWARD

What can wash away our sins? Nothing . . . *nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

The sin debt we hold over our own heads has already been canceled. We don’t have to forgive ourselves because, through Jesus, God has already forgiven us.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Colossians 2:13-14 - “He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.”

HOMEWORK: Read Chapter 5 | Answer Reflection Questions

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