

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

CHAPTER TWO | *STARTING POINT*

EVERYTHING HAS A STARTING POINT

- Everything has a starting point. Even your faith got started as a child. But at some point faith ran out.
- What would it look like to find a restart of faith?
- For many people “The Bible says,” may not be an adequate place to restart their faith.
- Where do we begin? The essential question is, “Who is Jesus?”

NO WIGGLE ROOM

- Today we are going to talk about a well known word, yet one we are not all too comfortable with: SIN
- We keep this word in religious contexts, don't we?
- We avoid it because it is heavy! It leaves no wiggle room— “I've sinned” is like case closed.
- In our culture we've landed on a much more comfortable word: “I made a mistake.”

MISTAKERS

- Culturally we have all heard the public official say after blowing up his career, family and reputation, “I have made some mistakes,” and we don’t buy it!
- Mistakes are things we didn’t mean to do. We put down the wrong answer, we filled in the wrong bubble, we drifted in the lane; we made a mistake!
- “Mistake” doesn't seem to fit. What do we call a person who makes a mistake over and over and over? What is a premeditated, planned mistake?
- Many are unwilling to see that although mistakes can be corrected, our problem is deeper and cannot be corrected.

THE PROBLEM

- What is sin and who is a sinner? Here is a simple definition by Andy Stanley, “A sinner is basically somebody who knows better but does it anyway.”
- When Jesus talked about sin it was not to condemn but to restore in relationship.
- As long as we think we are simply making mistakes, we will not: ask forgiveness nor seek restoration in relationship with God or others.

RESTORATION

- Think of human relationships. When was the last time you said, “I sinned. I did what was wrong against you, I knew better. Will you forgive me?”
- When a relationship is suffering it is often because we think we made a mistake, but the offended person thinks we sinned.
- *If we are going to be restored to relationship with God, we must recognize our sin and seek forgiveness.*

2 FAMOUS EXAMPLES

1. There was a woman caught in the very act of committing adultery! She was caught and couldn't deny it. Jesus' answer: "Neither do I [condemn you]. Go and sin no more."
2. Jesus taught a story about a young man who demanded his inheritance and wasted it on things he knew were not right or good. Jesus concluded saying the son confessed and the Father welcomed him home and relationship was restored.

WHAT WILL GOD DO?

- When we think about sin we jump to judgment and condemnation. But God wants us to recognize our sin so that He can rush to restoration!
- *We will never come back to God or find the starting point of faith as a mistaker. We have to come back as a full-blown sinner—pinned down, caught, recognized, confessed sinner. But when we come back like that guess what God will do?*