

Sins That Crucified Christ

Matthew 23:32-36

Introduction: I'm always amazed at the length wicked people will go to commit sin. Just when I think man couldn't do anything more wickedly, I hear of another atrocity that only demonstrates the immorality of humankind.

Yet, the worse atrocity that wicked men perpetrated was the killing of our Lord and Savior. Jesus condemned these wicked people before He died at their hands (Matt. 23:32-36).

Could we be guilty of the same sins? The scary thing about all this is that the same sins that caused the death of our Savior are the same sins we commit today. The Jews that crucified Jesus were indeed a wicked people. But are we any better when we realize we are often guilty of the same sins that crucified Christ?

I. Ignorance

A. The Jews didn't know nor fully understood that Jesus was the Messiah.

1. They crucified Christ in ignorance (Acts 3:17).

2. The rulers were likewise ignorant (1 Cor. 2:8).

3. Even on the cross, Jesus prayed their ignorance might be forgiven them (Luke 23:34). Ignorance is no excuse for sin.

B. Yet, how many people today are ignorant of the truth?

1. To be ignorant of the truth is foolishness (Eph. 5:17).

2. Those who are foolish enough to restrain the truth, even in their ignorance, will suffer the wrath of God (1 Thess. 2:14-16). The people today that ignorantly restrain the truth (i.e. forbid religious discussion) would have crucified Jesus if they had lived back then.

II. Hatred of good.

A. Jesus went about doing good (Acts 10:38).

1. Yet, wicked men wanted to stone Him for the good He preformed (John 10:31-32).

2. They hated Christ without a cause (John 15:25).

B. People love being evil. Therefore, evil people hate good because it exposes them for their wickedness (John 3:19-21). Most people don't want to be known as evil. Therefore, evil people resist being identified as wicked by attacking good while good people willingly admit their evil that they might be good through forgiveness.

C. People will hate you if you tell them the truth (Gal. 4:16). The truth hurts. Evil people hate being hurt by the truth of their own wickedness. When Jesus pointed out the faults of the Jewish rulers, what did they do to Him?

III. Envy

A. Pilate knew the Jews wanted Jesus dead because of envy (Matt. 27:18).

B. Envy is a resentful awareness of an advantage enjoyed by another with a desire to possess it. The Jews wanted to have what Jesus had in regards to His abilities and His following. But they were unable to obtain as long as Jesus was around.

C. Unfortunately, envy is still prevalent in the church. When members want other members to leave in order to have their way, their desire is envy. Envy might be over someone's abilities, someone's role in the church or over someone's wealth. It could even be over the control of a church building. Envy will destroy anyone and most false teachers have plenty of it (1 Tim. 6:3-5).

IV. Lying

A. The chief priests recruited false witnesses against Jesus (Matt. 26:59). When a person is innocent but you want him to be guilty of something, the easiest way to ruin a person is to lie about him. The Jews even paid the Roman soldiers to lie about Jesus' death (Matt. 28:11-15).

B. The sin of lying is often witnessed among our members (Eph. 4:25). Why do members try to deceive others about their lack of attendance? Why do members discuss false stories about the preacher when he is only proclaiming the truth? Why do members rationalize their sins instead of confessing them?

V. Love of money

A. Jesus was betrayed for money (Matt. 26:14-16).

B. We understand the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil (1 Tim. 6:9-10).

C. But how many of us betray the Lord for money today. Some members will work and miss services, when they don't have to, just to make an extra buck. Other members betray the Lord by not giving a portion of their means as commanded just to keep extra cash for themselves. Some members spend more money on entertainment and eating out than they spend on the Lord each week. Do we think the Lord doesn't know he is being betrayed?

Conclusion: We need to avoid the sins that crucified our Savior. Ignorance, hatred, envy, lying and greed all contributed to Christ's death. Shouldn't that be even more reason why we should avoid such sins? Let us not betray the Lord any further in our sins. Let us repent of our evil seeing how we are no better than the wicked people who crucified Christ on the cross when we do the same.