

## Evangelizing Those Who Wrong You

### Session #2

***“How Do I Get to the Place of Forgiveness?”***

### 4 Steps

*...of forgiveness*

#### **Step #1: Go to the cross, and do some gospel thinking.**

- A. **Thought #1:** “Christ has suffered as I am suffering right now, and infinitely more so, which means I am never alone in any pain.”
- B. **Thought #2:** “Sometimes God purposes that those whom He loves deeply be painfully sinned against.”
- C. **Thought #3:** “God the Father can be trusted completely on the receiving end of any wrongdoing.”
- D. **Thought #4:** “I have committed greater \_\_\_\_\_ against \_\_\_\_\_ than any person has ever committed against \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 1. Rebecca Manley Pippert. “Dust, rusty nails and blood notwithstanding, the ground at the foot of the cross is the only vantage point from which to view life clearly. To see things there is to see them truly.”<sup>6</sup>
  - 2. What comes naturally to us all: “. . . you [are] looking at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but are not noticing the log that is in your own eye?” (Matthew 7:3)

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<sup>6</sup> Rebecca Manley Pippert, Hope Has Its Reasons, 172.

3. What can possibly reverse this natural focus and make us more concerned about our own sin than someone else's? THE \_\_\_\_\_!

*"You who think of sin but lightly  
Nor suppose the evil great  
Here may view its nature rightly  
Here its guilt may estimate."  
(Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted)*

4. John Stott. "Until you see the cross as that which is done by you, you will never appreciate that it is done for you."<sup>7</sup>
5. Isaiah 53:5. "But He was pierced through **from** [Heb. *min*] our transgressions, He was crushed **from** [Heb. *min*]<sup>8</sup> our iniquities."

This makes us violators of the 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment: "Thou Shalt Not Kill."

6. What the Cross shows us is that if God came into the world and presented Himself to us, we would kill God. God sent His Son into the world to speak the truth and to be the truth. To have seen Jesus when He was on this earth was to see the Father. And what did we do to God when He came? We killed Him. In this act, sin overplayed its hand and showed itself for what it really is. We overplayed our hand and exposed ourselves for what we really are . . . we are murderers, murderers of God.
  - A) Romans 8:7. "because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it is not subject to the Law of God, nor is it able to do so."
  - B) 1 John 3:15. "Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer . . ."

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<sup>7</sup> John Stott, <https://twitter.com/JohnStott>.

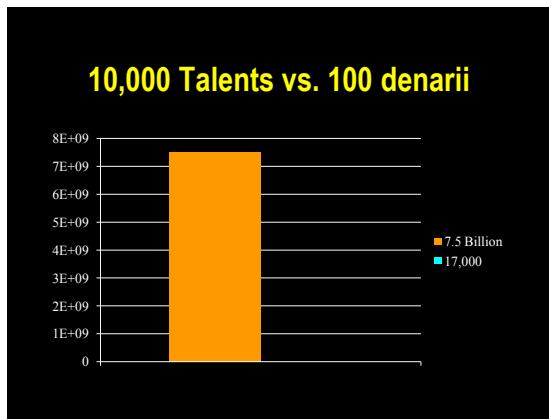
<sup>8</sup> In verse 4 Isaiah voices the viewers' initial estimation that the Messiah was stricken, smitten, and afflicted of [by] God. The "but" at the beginning of verse 5 points to the additional and contrasting fact that the Messiah was also "pierced **from** our iniquities and crushed **from** our sins." The double use of *min* [from] in v. 5 denotes *causation* with the overlapping notion of *means*. We see a similar use of *min* in Genesis 9:11: "All flesh shall not again be cut off **by** [Heb. *min*] the waters of the flood." Hence, verse 5 teaches us that, we, the very ones who esteemed the Messiah to be stricken of God, are complicit in His suffering through our sin.

- C) John 15. “(23) He who hates Me hates My Father also. (24) If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. (25) But they have done this to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, ‘They hated Me without a cause.’”
- D) 2 Samuel 12. “(9) Why have you **despised** the word of the Lord by doing evil in His sight? (10) . . . you have **despised** Me and taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife?”
7. Charles Spurgeon. “***Sin is a deicide. Every sinner, if he could, would kill God,*** for he says in his heart, ‘No God.’ He means he wishes there were none. He would be rejoiced indeed if he could learn for certain that there was no God. In fact, that is the bugbear of his life, that there is a God, and a just God, who will bring him into judgment. His secret wish is that there were no religion and no God, for he might then live as he pleased. Now, when a man is made to see that ***sin in its essence is the murderer of Emmanuel***, God with us, his heart being renewed, he hates sin from that very moment.”<sup>9</sup>
- E. **Thought #5:** “Glory to God, Christ has purchased my \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ at the cross.”
1. Ephesians 1:7. “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses,”
  2. Romans 5:9. “having now been justified by His blood”

**A Definition:** “Justification is an instantaneous legal act of God in which He, (1) decides to think of our sins as forgiven and Christ’s righteousness as belonging to us, and (2) declares us to be righteous in His sight.” (Wayne Grudem)
  3. Matthew 18:32. “I forgave you ALL THAT DEBT....”

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<sup>9</sup> Charles Spurgeon, The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit: Sermons Preached and Revised, Volume 21, 344.



- 100,000 Talents = your sins against God which God has forgiven
- 100 Denarii = the sins of others against you which you find \_\_\_\_\_



4. **From Cindy.** “Over time, I began to see my own sinfulness and God’s grace and mercy for my sins. It was very hard to look at my own contribution to the breakdown of my marriage. I wanted to just focus on his part and leave the blame there, but God opened my eyes and helped me to see that, even as a victim of my husband’s sin I could not claim innocence in my marriage, and certainly not before a holy God.”

“The gospel gave me power to forgive my husband. Christ had died for both our sins, dying in our place and drinking the full cup of God’s wrath

we deserved for our sins. Through the revelation of this truth, I was humbled and disarmed – we were more alike than different. From this standing place, forgiveness flowed.”<sup>10</sup>

F. **Thought #6: “I am purchased & \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_; and now I live to serve \_\_\_\_\_ purposes, not \_\_\_\_\_.”**

1. In purchasing me, Christ took ownership of me, an ownership which includes even debts owed to me. (Matthew 18; Matthew 25:45)

Romans 12. “(19) Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord.”

2. 1 Corinthians 6:20. “(19) . . . you are not your own . . . (20) For you have been bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.”
3. Evaluate the things that make you angry. Are you righteously indignant because sin is being committed, or are you angry because someone has done something that is at cross purposes with your selfish agenda?

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<sup>10</sup> Dave Harvey, When Sinners Say ‘I Do’, 109.