

“Original Sin”
Judges 21:25
(Preached at Trinity, September 6, 2015)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. The Book of Judges is a display of human sin. The recurring theme can be seen in **Judges 2:11** - "Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD" We find this statement eight times in the Book of Judges.
2. This seems amazing. God had blessed Israel greatly. He raised them up as His people. He delivered them from Egypt and fed them in the wilderness. He brought them into Canaan and gave them cities that they did not build and vineyards that they did not plant. His only requirement of them was covenant faithfulness – “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”
Instead we find over and over, “Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD”
3. This is the testimony of all mankind. God has been good. His common grace has been rich as He has lavished His blessings upon humanity. Instead of worshipping God and obeying Him all of humanity has continually done evil in God's sight.
Romans 1:21 NAU - "For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened."
4. As we close out the book we find the ultimate testimony:
Judges 21:25 NAU - "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."
 - a. No one has a desire for what is right in God's eyes. Our great desire is fulfilling the desires of our own eyes. We want moral autonomy. We want to decide for ourselves what is right or wrong.
 - b. The truth is God is the only one who determines what is right or wrong.
Judges 13:1 NAU - "Now the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, so that the LORD gave them into the hands of the Philistines forty years."
 - c. The problem with humanity is that there is no concern for what is right in God's eyes. Everyone is doing what is right in their own eyes.
5. This is a universal problem.
Romans 3:10-18 NAS - "as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one; ¹¹ There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; ¹² All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one." ¹³ "Their throat is an open grave, With their tongues they keep deceiving," "The poison of asps is under their lips"; ¹⁴ "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness"; ¹⁵ "Their feet are swift to shed blood, ¹⁶ Destruction and misery are in their paths, ¹⁷ And the path of peace have they not known." ¹⁸ "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

6. What has gone wrong? What has caused this universal corruption in the heart of man? The Bible teaches the fall of Adam and God's curse upon him and all of his posterity
- I. Was Adam the first man? Did his sin have an effect upon all mankind?
- A. In the religious community today there is much talk about whether Adam was a historical figure or merely a metaphor to describe mankind in general.
1. There are those today who hold to what is called Theistic Evolution
 - a. God caused the "Big Bang" and created the building blocks of matter and evolution has taken over from there.
 - b. It is an effort to harmonize Biblical creation with evolution. In this belief, Adam was not a literal man but representative of mankind.
 2. Another view is called "Progressive Creationism"
 - a. This view denies the literal 6 day creation.
 - b. They believe the earth and animals existed many millions of years before Adam was created and that God has progressively created all living things.
 - c. Some believe this includes men – that God progressively created man. Before Adam there were lesser developed men who had human-like characteristics but were spiritless. Adam was created in the midst of these men.
- B. There are several important theological problems with these positions
1. First of all, the Bible states that Adam was the first man
 - a. There was an original man created on the sixth day of creation
Genesis 1:27 NAS - "And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."
Genesis 2:7 NAS - "Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."
 - b. While it is true that the Hebrew word for Adam can refer to mankind in general this original man was alone with no one else around him
Genesis 2:18 NAS - "Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."
 - c. The NT states that Adam was this original man
1 Corinthians 15:45 NAS - "So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit."
 - d. Eve was the first woman formed from the body of Adam. She became the mother of all mankind
Genesis 3:20 NAS - "Now the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all *the* living."

2. The Bible places Adam as our covenant head
 - a. God brought Adam into the Covenant of Works
Genesis 2:16-17 NAS - "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷ but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die."
 - b. Adam represented all of mankind – Adam died, we died
Romans 5:12 NAS - "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned"
Romans 5:15 NAS - "For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many."
1 Corinthians 15:21-22 NAS - "For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive."
 - c. Adam was the federal head of all mankind. Jesus is the federal head of His people.
 - d. There is a correlation between the imputed sin and guilt of Adam and the imputed atonement and righteousness of Christ. The first Adam brought sin and death. The second Adam brought life and resurrection.
 - e. To deny the historic Adam is to endanger the doctrine of salvation

II. What was the effect of original sin?

- A. God threatened Adam with death if he broke covenant
Genesis 2:17 NAS - "but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die."
 1. Adam was our federal head. He represented us. A clear testimony to this is death. All of us die.
 2. Physical death didn't happen immediately although Adam became mortal. But he immediately died spiritually.
 3. Spiritual death is the corruption of our whole nature
LBC 6:2 – "Our first parents, by this sin, fell from their original righteousness and communion with God, and we in them whereby death came upon all: all becoming dead in sin, and wholly defiled in all the faculties and parts of soul and body."
 4. There is not a part of us unaffected by the fall
 Our minds are darkened and void of spiritual understanding, our wills are corrupt and bent on sinning, our affections are vile and filled with hatred and pride
- B. First, spiritual death resulted in a the loss of communion with God – there was an infinite separation
 1. Adam lost all ability to approach God
 - a. Sin has caused an infinite breach between God and man
 - b. God is holy, man is sinful

2. Adam no longer had a right understanding of God
Ephesians 4:18 NAS - "being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart"
 - a. Adam didn't understand God. He didn't know God and didn't
 - b. Adam saw God as his enemy. He hated God, despised His rule
 The lost man is in a state of enmity and hostility with God
 3. The lost man is incapable of generating love in his heart towards God
 - a. He is incapable of loving God or God's law
 He hates God's law demonstrating his hatred of God
 - b. Instead of loving God Adam loved himself and he fell headlong in love with the world. The world became his sweetheart and his flesh could not get enough of its delights.
- C. Second, spiritual death resulted in a corruption of Adam's nature – he became sinful
1. He began to naturally do those things contrary to God's law. He had a sinful disposition. He loved his sin.
 2. His thoughts became sinful
Genesis 6:5 NAU - "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."
 3. His speech became sinful, his actions became sinful, his affections became sinful
 4. He lost all ability to please God. The lost man has no interest in pleasing God and would be unable if he desired to please God
 5. This is the terrible testimony of the Book of Judges.
Judges 21:25 NAU - "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."
- D. Third, spiritual death resulted in an absolute inability to return to the previous condition of holiness.
1. The lost man is absolutely incapable of removing his guilt or living in righteousness.
 2. This is why we find Israel returning over and over to their evil ways
Judges 2:11 - "Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD"
 3. God would raise up a deliverer and their actions would be temporarily arrested but their hearts remained unchanged. They were not able to maintain hearts towards God. Joshua warned them:
Joshua 24:19 NAU - "Then Joshua said to the people, "You will not be able to serve the LORD, for He is a holy God."
 4. It is important for us to understand how utterly incapable we are to do anything to bring about our salvation. We have to understand how helpless we are.
- E. The sad consequence of our spiritual death is we are satisfied to remain in that condition
1. Lost people do not see that there's a problem. They are comfortable in their sin. In fact they are most pleased with their sin.
 2. Unless God does something supernatural no man would come

3. Jesus confirmed this:
John 6:44 NAU - "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day."
John 6:65 NAU - "And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father."
4. This is also what we see here at the end of Judges. Everyone does what is right in their own eyes.

III. What must be done?

- A. We've seen 12 different judges. 12 different deliverers
 1. In each case the deliverance was only temporary
 2. They were delivered from their human oppressors but they were not delivered from themselves. Their inner corruption kept them from giving whole hearted devotion to God
- B. God must do something amazing
 1. If we are dead He must raise us to new life
 2. If we are spiritually blind, He must give us understanding
 3. If we are corrupt and bent on sin He must give us a new heart
 4. Something has to be done to us that is as supernatural and powerful as when God called forth the light to shine out of darkness on the day of creation.
2 Corinthians 4:6 NAU - "For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."
- C. We must be born again
 1. God shows us our sin and condemnation
 2. He enables us to believe and turn from our sin by giving us faith and repentance
 3. He sets our heart and affection upon Christ
 4. Spiritual death is abolished through regeneration
2 Cor. 5:17 NAU - "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."
 - a. The full effect of spiritual death will not be annihilated until the resurrection and glorification – but we have been born again now. We have a new nature and from this new nature comes a love for Christ.
 - b. Yet, we still have remaining infirmities of the flesh
 - c. Although we are not delivered from all of the effects of spiritual death in this life we are delivered from the bondage of sin and are raised to live in holiness.
Romans 6:22 NAU - "But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life."
- D. Whereas sin and death came through Adam, Christ has delivered His people from their sin
Matthew 1:21 NAU - "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

Conclusion:

1. We must trust in our great Redeemer. We must rest in Him.
2. We must forsake our evil ways and follow Christ with our whole heart. The glorious things in the New Covenant we now have the power to do so.
Jeremiah 31:1 NAU - "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."
3. We now have a King. No more shall it be said of us:
Judges 21:25 NAU - "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."