

## It's No Mistake

Text : **Matt. 5: 17-30**

### INTRODUCTION :

#### A. In our modern “PC” world sin is a pesky word.

1. It causes us to think of laws and restrictions.
2. It causes us to think of condemnation, of judgment and of punishment.
3. Sin suggests moral absolutes and accountability. ( **all are unpopular concepts** )
4. The word “sin” implies that I might need to ask for forgiveness or face punishment.

#### B. Though an unpopular concept, we all know what sin is :

1. The dictionary defines “**sin**” as :
  - 1) “An offense against God, religion or good morals”
  - 2) The condition of being guilty of continued offense against the same
  - 3) An offense against law, standard, code, etc.
2. Any time we violate law we sin.
  - a. God’s law : **I John 3: 4-** Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.
  - b. Man’s law : **Rom. 13: 2-** Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.
  - c. Our own law : **Rom. 14: 23-** But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.*
3. When we commit sin :
  - a. We know we’re doing it. ( **willful transgression ... make a decision to it** )
  - b. We know we’re doing wrong when we do it.
  - c. We’ll most likely do it again if we don’t get caught.
4. Even so we don’t like to be called sinners.
  - a. It makes us feel bad about ourselves.
  - b. We don’t like to use the word “SIN” because we don’t like to feel like a bad person. ( **It’s clear a sinner has done something wrong.** )

**\*\* So what do we do ?**

#### C. Instead of saying, “*I committed a sin.*” we prefer to say, “*I made a mistake.*”

1. We find it easier to admit to a mistake than to a sin.

2. The dictionary definition of “**mistake**” is :
  - 1) “to understand or perceive wrongly”
  - 2) “to interpret or judge incorrectly”
  - 3) “to recognize or identify incorrectly” etc.
3. If we made a mistake we don't feel bad, we just :
  - a. weren't thinking straight at the moment. ( **I was young and naive. ... like Eve.** )
  - b. didn't have sufficient information at the time.
  - c. were not as careful as we should've been.

**Say :** “**Sorry, .. my bad, .. I made a mistake.**” and go on without remorse.

**Caught in a transgression :** “**Okay !! I made a mistake; nobody's perfect.**”

### **I. There's a big difference between “mistakers” and “sinners.”**

#### **A. If I just made a mistake :**

1. I don't need to ask forgiveness.
2. Just say, “**I'm sorry.**” and move on.
3. Since there was no intentional offense, there's no need of reconciliation.
4. For God to be intolerant of a mistake, is for **Him** to be unreasonable.

#### **B. A sin is altogether different.**

1. The difference is major :
  - a. If every wrong I do is a mistake, I don't have sin, just human errors.
  - b. If I don't have sin, I'm not a sinner, JUST a **mistaker**.
  - c. If I'm not a sinner, I'm not a bad guy, ... so I'm not lost ... I don't need a Savior.
2. If I'm just a **mistaker**, all I have to do is to try harder to do better.
  - a. Break a bad habit ( **be more careful, become more informed, etc** )
  - b. Strive to become more consistent
3. If I'm a sinner, it's more fundamental to who I am.
  - a. Just trying harder won't resolve my problem.
  - b. If I'm a sinner, I'm facing condemnation and judgment.
  - c. If I'm facing condemnation and judgment, I need a savior.
4. You might convince someone that he's made a mistake, but to convict him of sin is a much harder sell.

**C. I might be able to convince some of the guys that I'm not a sinner, just mistakers, ... BUT ...**

1. When I'm alone with myself, I know I'm a sinner.
2. In our heart of hearts we all know that our "mistakes" were intentional.

**ill. - The pretty girl may convince the officer who pulls her over that she didn't know she was in a 35 mph zone, but in her heart she knows she really did.**

- a. We knew that "mistake" was wrong when we did it.
- b. It popped in our heads to do it and we did not deny ourselves what we desired.
- c. We may not have thought we'd get caught, but we knew it was wrong.
- d. If we didn't get caught, we might do it again.

**D. What about guilt ? ( One doesn't feel guilty about a mistake. )**

1. A mistake is just a mistake.
2. After all ... you didn't mean to do it.
3. Everyone makes mistakes; we can't feel guilty for every inadequacy; no one's perfect.

**\* Guilt is reserved for sin, not mistakes, SO ...**

**"mistakers" need not feel guilty about any of their error, shortcomings.**

**If there's no guilt, there's no need for a Savior. ( Just try harder next time )**

**II. Then Jesus came along and spoiled our logic. He taught two opposing concepts.**

**A. He clearly showed the error in this thinking.**

**B. The Jews had worked out a system that made them feel good about themselves.**

1. They set up an exact system of works ... **Do this and you are righteous.**
2. It didn't matter what their **hearts** were like, **if they kept the rules they were good.**
3. God had no say in the matter, they were all agreed on the rules, God would approve.  
**\* THEY had set the standard by which God was required to judge them.**

**C. Jesus upset everything by rejecting their standard.**

1. They thought they were righteous, but Jesus condemned them.
2. They said just keep the rules, but Jesus said, "Give God your heart."
3. They pointed to the rules they had agreed upon, **but** Jesus pointed to the commands of God.  
**\* They were all feeling good about themselves, but Jesus showed them that they needed a Savior.**

**– Jesus raised the bar higher than they were willing to reach.**

Jesus showed them that they were really bad ... not righteous.

- They were not just a little inadequate, they were **LOST**.
- They had no way to make themselves righteous, to save themselves.
- They were doomed if they did not get help.

**III. After showing them their need, Jesus showed them that God loved them.**

**A. They were not merely “mistakers;” they were sinners.**

1. They were guilty and stood condemned by a death sentence. ( **just punishment** )
2. God had rejected their standard of judgment based on rules keeping and deeds doing.
3. God viewed them as enemies ( **Rom. 5** ) and usurpers.

**B. Even though they ( we ) were ungodly wretches, God loved them.**

1. He didn't approve of their condition, but He wanted them ( **us** ) back.
2. God couldn't accept people in their sins, SO  
He provides a way for them to escape their sins. ( **God sent Him to Save us.** )

**C. While Jesus ministered in Judea, those who viewed themselves as mistakers hated Him, but those who knew they were sinners loved Him.**

1. They realized that, *“If there's any hope for me, it will not come from within me.”*
  - a. NOT by doing better
  - b. Not by promising harder
  - c. Not by committing myself more
  - c. Not by persistently disciplining myself ( **all these things are good to do** )
2. They realized the only hope they had was to be saved by the Savior.

**IV. Jesus did NOT come to lower the standard or to make wrong things right.**

**A. Moses gave God's civil law to govern His earthly kingdom. ( *Israel* )**

1. The kingdom changed, but the LAW GIVER did not change.
2. God will always remain the same.

**Heb. 13: 8-** Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday and today and forever.

**B. Matt. 5: 17-** Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; ( **i.e., O.T.** )  
I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.

1. Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies and fully explained God's law given by Moses.

2. The Jews had missed God's message for them.

**\* NOTE:** Just because men agree upon a thing, does not mean that it is true.

C. **Matt. 5: 19-** Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

1. Jesus said, "***I haven't come to excuse you from doing what God requires.***"
2. You are still required to keep all of the commandments perfectly.

D. In fact, Jesus raised the standard far above that taught by the Jewish leaders.

1. **Matt. 5: 20-** For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.
2. The Pharisees were the strictest sect of the Jews. ( **Acts 26:5** )
3. "***You must be better than the best of the Jews.***"

E. You must not only do the right thing, you must do it for the right reason.

1. **Matt. 5: 21-** You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' **22** - But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.
2. Jesus did emphasize the importance of doing the right things. ( **keep law of God** )
3. BUT MORE THAN THAT ... Jesus demanded an obedient heart. ( *surrendered* )
  - a. Don't do physical harm.
  - b. Harboring ill will is just as bad. ( **Lust is as bad as adultery ... Vs. 27-28** )
4. It's not just a matter of not getting caught, it's having a right heart.

F. One does right because of his attitude toward God, not because of men.

1. **Matt. 5: 43-** You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' **44** - But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
2. Why do we pray for our neighbors, friends or enemies ?
3. Our prayer life reflects our hearts.
  - a. What we value.
  - b. How we view God. ( **our spiritual relationship** )

## V. Who can meet such a high standard ? **NO ONE !!**

- A. No one is ( or can be ) that righteous. ( only Jesus )**
1. There is no person who has lived without lust. ( **Breeding instinct is strong** )
  2. No one has ever lived without feeling ill will toward another. ( **except Christ** )
  3. No one ever lived without feeling covetousness or at least jealousy. ( **only Jesus** )
- B. Most of us think of ourselves as “mistakers.”**
1. We must come to realize we are sinners.
  2. We have NO HOPE if it depends upon us.
- C. We must be like those who were condemned by the system as sinners.  
They loved to be with Jesus. ( They were humble enough to admit their plight. )**
1. Jesus condemned their action, even their lifestyle. ( **They were lost.** )
  2. He assured them of God’s love for them. ( **More than you can imagine.** )
  3. Jesus gave them news of a Savior. ( **God sent me to find you and bring you home.** )

## VI. It only when we humble ourselves before God as sinners that we can be saved.

- A. One will only seek or accept a Savior **-if-** he feels a need to be saved.**
- B. In **Luke 15** we read a parable told by Jesus that illustrated this truth.**
1. This wayward son returned home pleading for mercy.
    - a. He received immediate acceptance ( **not probation** )
    - b. Ring on his finger ( **returned to sonship status** )
    - c. “Alive again” ( **renewed relationship** )
  2. This is the way God receives the penitent sinner. ( **not the mistaker** )
- C. The sooner I accept my misdeeds as sin, the sooner I can reach out to the Savior.**
- D. **Rom. 3:23-** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ( **not just mistake** )**
1. **Rom. 6:23-** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ
  2. We owe God a debt we cannot pay.
  3. If we humble ourselves before God as penitent sinners He’s willing to forgive the debt
    - \* **We can’t earn a pardon, but God is willing to give it IF we come asking.**

### **CONCLUSION :**

- A. As long as we think of ourselves as just “mistakers” :**
  - 1. We seek to do better. ( **In effect, we're trying to save ourselves.** )
  - 2. We don't humbly surrender ourselves to the ONLY Savior. ( **trust him to save** )
- B. It's only when we come to realize that we are indeed sinners that we lift our eyes heavenward in search of our Savior. ( **transfer our confidence from self to Christ** )**
- C. There is one respect in which God is not like the Father in the parable :**
  - 1. He is not just waiting for our return; He sent Jesus to seek us out.
  - 2. His disciples proclaim the gospel of Christ to call us out of that wicked place.
- D. Like the father in the parable God will welcome us back if we return seeking mercy**

### **INVITATION :** Jesus is calling you right now.

- 1. Recognize your sinful condition and turn away for it.
- 2. Believe in Him and trust Him alone to be the one to save you.
- 3. Confess Jesus with your lips and with your life.
- 3. Commit yourself to Him :
  - a. Establish your covenant with Him in Baptism
  - b. Walk with Him on a daily basis confessing that you are a sinner needing HIM

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.  
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.  
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.