

## *Pain*

- When/how is pain bad?
  - When/how is pain good?
  - What would the world be like if we removed all pain?
    - Sometimes we act as though forgiveness should remove all of the pain of sin
- What is a godly view of sin and forgiveness?

## Removing a Permanent Stain

Isaiah 1:1-20

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*A very brief history of Ancient Israel*



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- Divided Kingdom: 10 + 2 tribes
  - Israel (north, 10 tribes) (~930 BC)
  - Judah (south, 2 tribes) → temple



### *A very brief history of Ancient Israel*

- United Kingdom of 12 tribes
  - Israel (~1050 BC)
- Divided Kingdom: 10 + 2 tribes
  - Israel (north, 10 tribes) (~930 BC)
  - Judah (south, 2 tribes) → temple
- Single Kingdom: south (~722 BC)
  - Israel was conquered by Assyria
  - Judah lasted another 136 years
  - Pride: temple + endurance

**Isaiah: God's word to "holier" Judah**



**Isaiah 1:1-20**

1: God's message through Isaiah to "holier" Judah

2-3:

4:

5-9:

10-15:

16-17:

18:

19-20a:

20b:

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**Isaiah 1:1-20**

1: God's message through Isaiah to "holier" Judah

2-3: God's accusation: shameful rebellion

4: • "If someone has a stubborn and rebellious son who

5-9: does not obey his father and mother and **will not**

10-15: **listen to them when they discipline him,**

16-17: "...stone him to death" *Deuteronomy 21:18-20*

18: • Even animals do better than God's people!

19-20a:

20b:



***Isaiah 1:1-20***

1: God's message through Isaiah to "holier" Judah

2-3: God's accusation: shameful rebellion

4: Isaiah's echo of God's accusation: shameful rebellion

5-9: • Many words for their sin

10-15: • Sinful: miss the mark **Objective**

16-17: • Guilt: 'bent' (like 'crooked'), moral failings

18: • Evildoers: bad, evil

19-20a: • Corruption: decay

20b: • Forsake: abandon **Relational**

• Spurned: treat as unworthy and even offensive

• Turned their backs: treat as something horrible

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1: God's message through Isaiah to "holier" Judah

2-3: God's accusation: shameful rebellion

4: Isaiah's echo of God's accusation: shameful rebellion

5-9: Consequences of this rebellion: people and land

10-15: • Why do you keep going in a path that has brought

16-17: so much trouble?

18: • Perhaps Isaiah could see trouble more clearly

19-20a: • Hut in cucumber field: abandoned "lean to"

20b: instead of a palace or temple for God

• Sodom & Gomorrah: symbols of wicked foreign cities that were totally destroyed in judgment

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10-15: God's remedy: no more mere religion!

16-17: • Progression of God's disgust with empty religion

18: When you spread out your **hands** in prayer,

19-20a: I hide my **eyes** from you;

20b: even when you offer many prayers,

I am not **listening**.

Your **hands** are full of blood! 1:15

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16-17: God's remedy: submission to God's moral law

18: • In this case, God didn't ask

19-20a: ...for better "worship services" (vertical)

20b: ...but for better treatment of people (horizontal)

• "For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen." 1 John 4:20



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 5-9: Consequences of this rebellion: people and country  
 10-15: God's remedy: no more mere religion!  
 16-17: God's remedy: submission to God's moral law  
 18: Invitation to God's grace  
 19-20a: • Agree with God on the ugliness of sin  
 20b: • Not INSTEAD of pursuing justice  
 • He offers the cleansing we can't complete ourselves  
 • "Divine passive": God is the unstated washer

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 19-20a: 2 paths: godly submission (life), or rebellion (death)  
 20b: • Eat (in blessing) or be eaten (in judgment)

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- 19-20a: 2 paths: godly submission or rebellion
- 20b: This is God's unalterable plan  
for our relationship with Him

*The Big Idea*

**True life is only found  
by submitting  
to God's grace  
AND to God's commands**



## When caught in sin...



Attrition = I'm sorry I got caught



Contrition = I'm sorry I did wrong

### *Application*

- **Grow in our conviction (deep belief): sin is disgusting, enslaving, contagious, and deadly**
  - Sin = any failure to conform to the moral law/nature of God in act, attitude, or nature
  - Both before and after Christ's death & resurrection
    - Being in Christ rescues people from this power
      - instantly (justification) and progressively (sanctification)
    - Sin is **not** less awful
  - Religious sin is even more disgusting

### *Application*

- **Grow in our conviction (deep belief): sin is disgusting, enslaving, contagious, and deadly**
- **Respond to sin in a godly way**
  1. Confess & receive/accept forgiveness
    - “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and **will forgive us** our sins and **purify us** from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.” *1 John 1:8-10*
    - “Therefore confess your sins **to each other** and **pray for each other** so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” *James 5:16*

### *Application*

- **Grow in our conviction (deep belief): sin is disgusting, enslaving, contagious, and deadly**
- **Respond to sin in a godly way**
  1. Confess & receive/accept forgiveness
  2. Be determined to steer away from temptation
    - “And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.” *Matthew 5:30*
    - “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” *Matthew 6:13*



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  1. Confess & receive/accept forgiveness
  2. Be determined to steer away from temptation
  3. Pursue justice & God's ways: make amends wisely
    - Zacchaeus: his problem was greed and he cheated others of their money
    - “But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, ‘Look, Lord! Here and now **I give half** of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, **I will pay back** four times the amount.’” *Luke 19:8*

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- **Respond to sin in a godly way**
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  2. Be determined to steer away from temptation
  3. Pursue justice & God's ways: make amends wisely
  4. Be determined to be changed, in His grace
    - “For this very reason, **make every effort** to add to your faith goodness...” *2 Peter 1:5-7*
    - “**Stop doing wrong. Learn to do right.**” *Isaiah 1:17*

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