



May 8, 2022

“Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”

Luke 5:17-32

Thinking Biblically About Sin

What bad news does the Gospel (Good News) compellingly answer?

You shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins: Matt 1:21

“Sin” perceived as an arbitrary rule book by some seeking to control others

Sin focused on a subset of actions misses its underlying nature

The core bad news: death: 1 Cor 15:26,54-55

Death as the rending of what was never meant to be separated: disintegration

Sin is the runaway and rampant “virus” that releases death into everything: Romans 5:12

Sin understood at the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil: Gen 3:4-7

The human choosing self-determination regarding good and evil over submission to God

The self-centered human’s distorted view leads to actions that “break reality”: Gen 2:17

Every choice/action unleashes a compounding series of death consequences: Rom 5:12

Until a suffocating death net wraps the whole creation in its grip: Rom 8:20-21

The Gospel: Jesus’ death and resurrection has abolished death: 2 Timothy 1:10

Providing forgiveness (release from the law of sow and reap), healing from consequences

Jesus and the Paralytic: Luke 5:17-26

The paralyzed man was a real-world parable of the end of human self-determination

In our determination to walk on our own we end up crippling ourselves into helplessness

I am not saying that the man was paralyzed because he had sinned (see John 9)

Jesus reveals two things: the nature of the sin-soaked world and Himself as the Solution

The paralyzed man being carried to Jesus is the perfect picture of God-surrender

The resistance of the Pharisees

Jesus and the Call of Levi (Matthew): Luke 5:27-32

The Pharisees are the religious species of the same sin of self-determination

When God came to them in Jesus, they could not see it

The way to life is only found by those who know they are “poor and needy”

Jesus calls “sinners” to repentance because they know their plight and are hungry for life

All are invited to the party but only the poor and needy end up coming

The “righteous” stay outside, locked away in their “right” way of seeing

As such they suffocate in the death net, while “sinners” pick up their mats and dance