

Agents of Sin

Intro.: We live in an age when sin has been de-sinned in too many circles. Consequently, this has become a time of erosion of ethical-moral principles.

1. "Sin is not seen; it can only be recognized by the pain it causes."
(*Julian of Norwich – English mystic, ca. 1342-1412*)
2. Sin is the most powerful catalyst in our lives.

The Bible shows sin's cause and effect. These we observe in a number of lives such as our own.

Adam and Eve – chasing after superiority, discontent with their condition (*Genesis 3:6*)

Cain – Irrational use of force, resort to secrecy, competitiveness (*Genesis 4:8-10*)

Esau – Acting on impulse of the moment (*Genesis 25:32, 33*)

Joseph's Brothers – Premeditation (*Genesis 37:18-20*)

Pharaoh and Haman – Chauvinistic scheme (*Ex. 1:9, 10; Esther*)

Balaam – Compromise for gainsake (*Numbers 22:17*)

Achan – Greed and cover-up (*Joshua 7:21*)

Samson – Vacillating reluctantly (*Judges 16:16, 17*)

Ahab -- Inducement by peer (*I Kings 21:7, 20*) **Balaam**

David – Self-confidence, lust (*II Samuel 11*)

Belshazzar – Drunkenness, grandeur (*Daniel 5:1, 2, 27*)

Shimei – Vindictiveness (*II Samuel 16:5; 19:20*)

Herods – Drunkenness, women (*Matt. 14:6-10; Acts 12:20-24*).

The Son, Swineherd – Loss of sense & content of life (*Luke 15:12, 17*)

Judas Iscariot – Disappointment, disillusion

(*Matt. 26:14-16; Mark 14:10; Matt. 27:3-5; Acts 1:16-20*)

Pontius Pilate – Appeasement of majority (*Mark 15:15*)

Jewish Hierarchy – Envy-Jealousy, Ignorance, Persistent Unbelief (*Envy-Jealousy: Matt. 27:18; Mark 15:10; Jn. 11:46, 47; Acts 5:17*)

(*Ignorance: Luke 23:34; Acts 3:17; I Tim. 1:13*)

(*Unbelief: Matt. 27:20-23; 25; John 11:49, 50*)

You – Hardening of the heart, many transgressions and sins, blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (*Hebrews 4:7; Amos 5:10, 12, Matthew 12:32*)