

**Lent 5      Sunday 18/03/2018      Sin as Slavery**

This is the last in our series on the Shadows of Sin which is Sin as slavery. This is very confronting because today we are seeing sin as **not only an action we do but a power...**a power over us...a power which locks us into slavery.

Read Numbers 11: 4-15

**Question 1.** What were the reasons given for the people of Israel wanting to go back to Egypt?

**Question 2.** The slide into sin is often marked by denial, rationalisation and then powerlessness. How is this reflected in verses 4-6?

**Question 3.** In our reading we find the Israelites are about to choose an act of disobedience to God...in the hope of some improved comfort...which will be the very thing that will take away completely the freedom they crave for. What lessons about sin can we learn from this?

*Read Numbers 11:10-15.*

**Question 4.** What do these verses teach us about the despair of Moses in his role as leader and how does this passage look forward to the hope we find in Jesus? See also Hebrews 3:3-6.

**Question 5.** “The children of Israel in the desert thought that they were now free... but they had allowed their “if onlys” to satisfy their deepest needs, rather than God. They had allowed their “if onlys” to take away their taste for God. They had allowed their “if onlys” to blind them...God was no longer their driving force. They were prepared to allow their “if onlys” to lead them back into even deeper slavery.” *Sunday sermon*

What are the main “if onlys” that dominate your friends today and, what have been the main “if onlys” which have enslaved you?

## Question 6:

We can be enslaved to a way of living ...for a way of being...that is far short of what Jesus wants for us...we can be trapped and often we don't even know it. We can even argue,,,that "it is just the way I am...that's me". Remember that sin makes us less human....less our real selves...stops us flourishing in a way that God wants for us.

Get group to break up into smaller units to discuss where Jesus came across examples of these signs of slavery which often goes under the radar. Can you think of other examples?

- Always having to be right...
- Having to be in control of everything around them...
- Having an attitude which says, "no one can tell me what to do"...
- Being big in their own eyes...
- Being enslaved by living in fear of what others around you might think
- Refusing to be generous...
- Other examples....

**Question 9.** The healing Christ offers us will be found when we allow ourselves to get caught up in the wonder and worship of God Himself.. . **reflecting, meditating, seeking, reading, worshipping,** etc (both individually and corporately) and it is as we give time to Him with a submissive heart...God will meet us, and...our drive for our "if onlys" will no longer be as strong.

Play <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGXDfxWM2r0>

Discuss the words and impact of this song?

Travis Cottrell

Just as I am, without one plea, But that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come

Just as I am, and waiting not, To rid my soul of one dark blot  
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come  
I come broken to be mended, I come wounded to be healed  
I come desperate to be rescued, I come empty to be filled  
I come guilty to be pardoned, By the blood of Christ the Lamb  
And I'm welcomed with open arms, Praise God, just as I am

Just as I am, I would be lost  
But mercy and grace my freedom bought  
And now to glory in Your cross  
Oh Lamb of God I come, I come