

A pass through The Psalms: **Week 19: Psalm 38**

The Struggle of Sin. In Psalm 38 David addresses the issue of personal sin. He covers the ongoing _____ and ultimate _____.

Today we will cover 10 important aspects of the personal struggle of sin. Each of these 10 important aspects appear all throughout scripture and they appear in the major sins of Adam & Eve (Gen 3), Cain & Abel (Gen 4) and Achan (Josh 7).

The Pain that sin always brings.

Aspect 1

Sin always brings pain, ruin, _____ & sadness. [v3, 5-8, 17 & Gen 3:16]

- All sinning will always bring _____ & sadness. It may not be immediate and it may take some time to be _____. (Most of us are so used to this pain that we hardly notice it anymore.)
- Sin will always rob us of some true joy, satisfaction and _____. Sin will try to sneakily _____ true joy with a false, temporary pleasure that will always lead to disappointment.

Aspect 2

Sin always brings _____ to all of our relationships. [v11 & Gen 3:12, 4:8]

- Sin will always be a detriment to our relationships; our relationship with God and our relationship with others. It may not be immediate and it may take some time to be perceived...but it will occur.
- Sin will always impact our more intimate relationships more _____. Sin's damaging effect is often in _____ to the significance of the relationship.
- Sin is never just _____ and personal. No matter how exclusive the sin may seem, sin is never just between us and God.

Aspect 3

Sin always brings _____ & death is always painful. [v3, 5, 12, 17 & Gen 3:17-19, Jam 1:15]

- Death is always the cost of sin...and the cost will always be paid. There is no avoiding it. Death does not mean termination, rather _____.
- Sin always (eventually) brings separation either to **(1) a relationship (2) the body or (3) a future joy.**

The Problem that sin always brings.

Aspect 4

Sin always brings the _____ of God. [v1-2]

- Sin will always bring some kind of rebuke, chastisement & _____ from the Lord. Even in (and especially in) the life of the believer. (Notice, discipline, not punishment).
- The rebuke may not be immediate and it may take some time to be perceived...but it will occur. And the rebuke is intended to bring repentance and healing. Therefore the longer it goes unperceived the longer the healing may not be received.

Personal Notes:

Aspect 5

Sin always brings the _____ closer. [v12, 19-20 & Gen 4:7, Josh 7:8-9]

-Sinning is always like throwing chum into the ocean. Every time we sin we reveal a _____ in our armor and the enemy moves in closer and fights even harder.

Aspect 6

Sin always _____ us ineffective at best & destroys us at worst. [v1-3, 13-14, 17 & Josh 7:5]

-Sin will always _____ our effectiveness, especially in our spiritual responsibilities; as Fathers, Mothers, Husbands, Wives, Pastors, Elders, Deacons & Teachers etc.

-Sin's aim is not just to render us ineffective. It want's everything. Sin's goal is _____ devastation, total destruction...and it will keep plotting & attacking.

The Purpose that sin always brings.

Disclaimer, the purpose aspects are not always actualized/present. They are always possible, but are contingent upon the response of the individual!

Aspect 7

Sin should bring us to the end of _____. [v4, 13-14 & Gen 4:13, Josh 7:6]

-God has a goal through (within) our sin. And that goal is to get us to the end of our confidence in ourselves, our abilities etc.

-Sin will get us to the end of ourselves. Either **literally**; by stripping us of everything (prodigal son) or **spiritually**; by us admitting that we have no ability etc.

Aspect 8

Sin should drive us to _____. [v15, 21-22 & Josh 7:6]

-When sin's false promise is revealed and it has stripped away our joy & satisfaction...it should have us _____ for true joy.

Aspect 9

Sin should bring _____ & _____ on God. [v18, 21]

-The sting of sin and the realization of what is has cost us mixed with the rebuke of God and the pain of hurting him should lead to genuine repentance.

-True repentance means; being heart stricken that we have _____ something of little value over God who is infinitely valuable.

-True repentance means; a **turning away** from _____ pleasures & lesser promises of satisfaction & reward and **agreeing** that God and his way is the ultimate truth & reward in the universe.

Aspect 10

Sin should drive us to the confident hope of _____. [v9, 15, 22]

-When sin has stripped our confidence in false promises we should be driven to an incredible confidence in God to deliver and provide something much _____.

We could examine many other instances of sin such as David & Bathsheba, Ananias & Sapphira & Achan and find these 10 aspects present (**Disclaimer, the purpose aspects are not always actualized/present. They are always possible, but are contingent upon the response of the individual**). I believe that recognizing these 'consequences' and 'stages' of sin's effects is an important way that we are able to battle sin more effectively (*and get to the end more quickly*).