

Sin Made Me Do It

Psalm 95

Are you ignoring God? Do you have any idea what causes us to do something like that?

It was one of those numerous times when the people found fault with their leader, a man appointed to lead them. They had complained when their enemies were fast approaching, and there was no place to go. When the water ran out, they murmured against their leader. When they were hungry, it was their leader they blamed.

When food was miraculously provided, they still disobeyed and did as they pleased, and their food was filled with worms. They even went looking for food on a day when their leader had told them there would be no food.

Now again they were without water. To make matters worse, they were in the middle of the desert, on their journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. And as usual, they complained, and blamed Moses for their thirst.

Moses had told them plainly before to pay attention, but they would not. They rebelled, and ignored what God had to say to them. Their rebellion had drastic consequences, because sin made them do it.

By the time we get to Psalm 95, the psalm before us today, many years had gone by. God spoke to remind the Hebrew people at worship of a very important fact: their forefathers had refused to pay attention to God, and as a result they sinned against God. But we are not any different: even in our day sin can cause us to ignore God's voice.

We would all pretty much agree with a general statement like that— as long as we are speaking of someone else. But let's get specific. Let's get personal— how does sin cause us to ignore God's voice? What are some of the ways?

Today we will look at three, only three, of the ways that sin can cause us to ignore God completely. Let's look at them.

1 We rebel against Him as King, v. 8

In verse three, the people were worshipping a "great king above all gods." They were worshipping God as king, signifying their obedience to the

sovereignty of God as king of their lives.

But in verse eight, they are reminded that sin had caused their forefathers to rebel against God: *“Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the desert.”* So let’s talk about what had happened at Meribah and Massah.

They had doubted the leadership abilities of God as king in the desert. They needed water, but instead of turning to God to provide for them, they began to blame Him for bringing them out into the desert in the first place. All they really had to do was remember the wondrous things God had done for them in the past, and trust Him for their needs in the present, and God the King would have provided everything they needed. Instead, their attitude was *“Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?”*

Their action was so rebellious that the name of the place where it happened was changed to *“Massah”* and *“Meribah”* names which mean *“proof”* and *“contention”* names which became memorials for Israel’s unbelief.

God provided the water for them, they missed the greater blessing of entering Canaan, the land promised to them, because sin had entered their lives and caused them to ignore God by rebelling against Him as King.

And it was sin that made them do it.

Sin has not changed much at all across the years. Sin still causes us *“you and me”* to ignore God as King of our lives, by doubting His provisions for us and rebelling against Him. Sin still causes us to grab the pleasure of the moment and forsake the riches in glory through Christ Jesus our Lord. Sin still causes us to turn our backs on the only real King and march defiantly off into the wilderness of sin in our lives.

So it becomes a very common thing for us to compromise our faith and the practice of our faith in one very small area of our lives, and then have that rebellion spread throughout our lives until we have ignored God completely by rebelling against Him as King.

Even those who claim to be Christians demonstrate with their lives that God is not their King. They rebel against Him when they refuse to pray, or witness, or tithe, or worship, or read His Word. They rebel against Him when other things *“almost*

anythingô becomes more important and has a higher priority than does allegiance to Christ.

So when was the last time you rebelled against Him as King? Last week? Yesterday? This morning? Are you rebelling against Him *right now*?

2 We ignore Him as Deliverer, v. 9

In verse one, the people in the Psalm were worshipping a God described as the “*Rock*” of their salvation. They were acknowledging that God’s numerous works of deliverance in the past had been clearly evident in the times He had led them, fed them, watered them, protected them and even provided salvation for them!

But here in verse 9, they were reminded that their forefathers, the Hebrews who were in the desert years before, had ignored God as their Deliverer from Egypt. “*your fathers tested me and tried me, though they had seen what I did.*” They had seen then that nothing is too difficult for God. They had full proof of His power. They had seen with their own eyes what God can do. They had personally experienced the wonderful work of God in bringing them out of Egypt.

And it wasn’t just that they walked out of Egypt. The miracles continued even after they left. They had seen the waters of the Red Sea foaming back until there was a dry path for them to walk. They had seen bitter drinking water become sweet. They had seen the manna on the ground in the morning, ready for them to pick up. They had seen the quail in the camp that God had provided. But still they complained. Still they doubted God’s ability to deliver them in this particular situation of having no water.

And sin made them do it.

But sin works like that. It causes us to ignore what God has done for us in the past, to ignore Him as Deliverer. Sin causes us to think, to reason with ourselves, that in spite of all the things God has done for us, and the ways that His will and glory have been revealed to us, that somehow in spite of all that, that maybeô just maybeô God won’t pull through for us this time.

Sin causes us to ignore God, to take our eyes off Him and focus our attentions on the trouble before us. But there is a much more tragic way that God is ignored as Deliverer, and that occurs when many people, even church members, ignore the pleadings of the Holy Spirit when He says that He comes to convict, to reprove, to

chasten, to deliver them from sin. It is that sin that causes us to ignore the fact that Jesus can deliver them from sin.

When was the last time you ignored God as your Deliverer—either as your Deliverer from sin into eternal life, or as the Deliverer in your past when you had no other way to turn? Last week? Yesterday? This morning? Are you ignoring Him as your Deliverer *right now*?

3 We disregard Him as Shepherd, v. 10

In the first part of verse seven, the people in the psalm declared that they were God's sheep, and that He was their shepherd: *“for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.”* They were acknowledging in worship that they, like sheep, are prone to wander away from the fold, disobey Him, and follow almost any distraction which came along.

Yet God was their shepherd Who watched over them to provide for them, to protect them from their enemies, and lead them in paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.

But in verse ten, God reminded them of their forefathers who ignored His ways and paid no attention to Him: *“For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, ‘They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways.’”*

In many places in Scripture, God is referred to as a shepherd. For example, you will remember that Psalm 23 begins, *“The Lord is my shepherd.”* And in the same way, God's people are often pictured as sheep. The people in the desert, like rebellious sheep, knew God's way well enough. They had walked in it before. But they did not like it, and would not walk in God's ways. They chose their own ways instead.

They did not like the way of faith, which told them to wait for God and walk in His ways. They allowed sin to creep into their lives until finally God says that He was angry with them. But let's understand what that means. The word means to be grieved, to loathe, to be disgusted. God looked at them and their continuous turning away from Him, and He was disgusted.

Sin tells us that God's ways are not good enough, quick enough or powerful enough. Sin tells us that God's ways are old-fashioned, irrelevant, and burdensome. We don't like to surrender too much control of our lives, because the

sin in our hearts makes us believe that God doesn't know what He's doing. Sin causes us to disregard God as our Shepherd, when we choose to go our own way, when we claim to know what is best for our lives, and when we defiantly refuse to live according to the words of Scripture.

Sin causes us to refuse to follow God in the paths of righteousness, until soon our priorities are turned around. We put self before Christ. We put sin above forgiveness, the present moment above eternity and personal satisfaction above the worship of God and faithfulness to His Church.

When was the last time you disregarded God as your Shepherd? Last week? Yesterday? This morning already? Are you disregarding Him as your Shepherd *right now?*

Sin causes us to pay no attention to God by

- 1. Rebelling against Him as King**
- 2. Ignoring Him as Deliverer**
- 3. Disregarding Him as Shepherd**

Only the full confession of sin from a broken and contrite heart will suffice.

But look with me at the end of verse seven and into verse eight: "*Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.*" Notice that it says "*if.*" Many people will not hear the voice of God. It's not that God is not speaking, but we do not hear Him because of sin in our lives.

But notice also that it says "*Today.*" It says nothing about tomorrow, or when things settle down in your life and busy schedule, or when you're finished with everything else, or when it is more convenient. *Today!* You hear the claims of Christ on your life week after week, and still you turn away. What are you waiting for?

Will you turn from your sins? Will you confess them to God? Will you acknowledge God as your King, your Deliverer, and your Shepherd?