

SIN IS LIKE A KIDNEY STONE

Int.

1. Aim: To show that sin is a very bad thing and much like having a kidney stone.
2. Rom. 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death"
3. "but the way of transgressors is hard." Prov. 13:15
4. One of the most painful experiences as far as physical discomfort is concerned is that of having a Kidney Stone. (Nephrocalcinosis)
 - a. I have had four of those little rascals. The last time was last Sunday morning.
 - b. There is just no way to describe the pain experienced.
 - c. Some have said it was worse pain than childbirth.
5. I believe that there are some ways in which a kidney stone is like sin.
6. No one likes a kidney stone, nor should anyone like sin.

Discussion

I. A LITTLE BIT CAUSES SO MUCH PAIN

- A. That tiny stone can literally bring a person to their knees, completely helpless with pain.
 1. Some of these stones are difficult to see, they are so small
 2. "Pain is not in proportion to size" - doctor's statement
 3. How can something so small cause such tremendous suffering?
- B. How many sins will it take to keep one out of Heaven?
 1. Jas. 2:10 -- Cannot stumble in one point "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

- a. Does this then demand sinless perfection?
 - b. No, but it does demand that we walk in the light -- 1 John 1:7.
 - c. God gives us the law by which we must walk.
 - (1) One command in His law is just as authoritative as another.
 - (2) Therefore, if we disobey one command, though we are obedient to every other command, we become guilty according to that law.
 - d. We cannot pick and choose which commands we are going to obey.
 - e. That we strive to keep ourselves free from sin.
- C. Also, we need to see the danger of the consequences of sin.
- 1. It has eternal consequences = eternity in hell, separation from God
 - 2. Sin does not only contaminate self, but it can be devastating to others also.
Family and friends are hurt by our sins.

II. THE PAIN MAY DISAPPEAR FOR AWHILE, BUT THE PROBLEM REMAINS

- A. The pain from the stone may subside at times, it may come and go, but it is ever there.
 - 1. There is no respite.
 - 2. What a relief for it to ease off for brief periods. Yet, there it is, ever present.
- B. The pain of sin may subside.
 - 1. We may even become unconscious of it; may even become calloused or hardened to it.

2. Eph. 4:17-19. "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness."
3. We just cannot allow sin to remain in our lives. Sin cannot be overlooked, dismissed, taken lightly.

III. IF NOT TAKEN CARE OF, KIDNEY STONES CAN DO A LOT OF DAMAGE

- A. People have been known to lose a kidney or have other permanent damage from stones that are left alone.
- B. Sin, if left in the heart, continues to do more and more damage to our lives.
 1. James 1:13-16-- the progressive nature of sin. V. 15 "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."
 2. Sin does not leave us like it found us.
 3. If sin is not removed it will destroy the guilty one.

IV. KIDNEY STONES CAN BE VERY PAINFUL TO REMOVE

- A. Some pass the stone naturally.
 1. I was fortunate enough to have this experience in each case.
 2. Sometimes surgery is necessary.

- B. This is not to suggest that we may be able of our own ability to remove our sins.
 - 1. Sin can only be removed by Jehovah.
 - 2. But, our point here is that SIN MAY BE VERY PAINFUL TO GET RID OF.
- C. Matt. 18:7-9. What a painful experience. But, sin MUST be dealt with.
 - 1. One may lose friends, perhaps even family, in the process.
 - 2. Matt. 10:34-39. Christ demands first place in our lives.

V. ONCE THE STONE IS GONE, THE RELIEF IS FANTASTIC

- A. The incredible pain is gone, the excruciating anguish, disappears instantly. Out of danger, out of the hospital, a load off the mind, etc. TOTAL RELIEF.
- B. So it is with sin. The relief and joy at the removal of sin should be great.
 - 1. Rom. 5:11 -- "rejoice in God....reconciliation."
 - 2. Acts 8:39 -- Eunuch went on his way rejoicing. = to be cheerful, calmly happy or well off
 - 3. The exaltation, the good feeling, or knowing that one is RIGHT WITH GOD.
 - 4. What could make one more happy than knowing that the pathway to Heaven has been entered.

VI. THERE IS ALWAYS A CHANCE OF ANOTHER STONE RECURRING

- A. Sometimes it requires a new diet to prevent the return of these stones. Some are calcium deposits, etc. A new lifestyle, a change of habits. Diet, water.
- B. We, too, must change our lives to avoid future sins.
 - 1. Col. 3:1-3 -- Set your mind on things above.

2. Our thinking, our desires, our actions, our very life, MUST now be different from what it was before.
3. 2 Peter 1:5-11 - faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, love
 - a. Add the Christian graces -
 - b. These will help us to be faithful and keep us from falling.
 - c. V. 10b "for if ye do these things ye shall never fall" [stumble - NKJV]
 - d. Fall = to trip, to err, sin fail
 - e. Implication - if we do not do these things we will fall back into sin.

VII. ANYONE CAN GET A KIDNEY STONE

- A. None are immune.
- B. Likewise, all are vulnerable to Sin.
 1. 1 Pet. 5:8 -- Satan goeth about....as a roaring lion.
 2. NOTE A CONTRAST HERE: Not all get a kidney stone (and I can personally testify that is good); but all will commit sin.
 3. Rom. 3:23.
 4. Doctors do not know for sure what causes kidney stones. They have some ideas but they are not for sure.
 5. Not so with sin.

VIII. A KIDNEY STONE MUST BE DEALT WITH BY A PROFESSIONAL

- A. Let me assure you, you do not wish to go through this without professional help.
- B. So it is with sin.
- C. Jesus is the great physician -- Matt. 9:11-12.

CONCLUSION

1. Sin is like a kidney stone
2. My doctor advised me to drink plenty of water !!!
3. Allow Jesus to be your doctor.
 - a. Let him cure you.
 - b. He is ready and willing to forgive, but you must ask.
4. What is the remedy for Sin?
 - a. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.
 - b. But, how might one take the prescription?
5. What Must I do to be saved?
 - a. Obey the Gospel - 1 Cor. 15 - Death, Burial, Resurrection
 - b. Hear, believe, repent, confess, be baptized = Salvation
 - c. Obey the Gospel. Romans 6:3-4.
6. What If I sin - Err from the truth - Jas. 5:19 - Repent, confess, pray

Sources Consulted

Jack Thompson - White Park Church of Christ, Anahuac, Texas -
<http://home.att.net/~jackthompson/page254.htm>

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sept. 2, 2007 - Sunday Evening
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