Hurting Each Other

**Reading - Matthew 18:21-35**

Bible speaks of many ways of committing sin: ***(1 John 3:4) Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.***

***(James 4:17) Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin***

***(Romans 6:23) For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

Who can we sin against?

1. A child ***(Matthew 18:6) “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.***

2. A Neighbor ***(2 Chronicles 6:22-23) “If anyone sins against his neighbor… {23} "then hear from heaven, and act, and judge Your servants.***

3. The Lord ***(1 Samuel 14:33) Then they told Saul, saying, "Look, the people are sinning against the LORD by eating with the blood!***

Perhaps of all human beings against whom one sins, sin against a brother is the most shameful act. ***(1 Corinthians 8:11-12) And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? {12} But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.***

***(John 15:17) “These things I command you, that you love one another.***

***(John 15:13) “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.***

***(Romans 5:6-8) For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. {7} For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. {8} But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***

**1. DOING him BODILY HARM.**

***(Matthew 5:22) “But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.***

***(1 John 3:15) Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.***

***(1 Corinthians 6:6-8) But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers! {7} Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated? {8} No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren!***

**2. FORSAKE Him WHEN HE IS IN TROUBLE.**

Note the story of the "good Samaritan" **(Luke 10:27-37).** ***(Luke 10:36-37) “So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" {37} And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise.***

***(Matthew 26:56) But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.***

***(2 Timothy 4:10) for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica.***

***(1 John 3:16-17) By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. {17} But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?***

**3. Failing TO PRAY FOR HIM.**

***(1 Samuel 12:23) “Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.***

***(1 John 5:16) If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask*** [in prayer]***, and He*** [God] ***will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.***

***(2 Thessalonians 3:1) Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you,***

**4. SETTING THE WRONG EXAMPLE FOR him.**

***(Romans 14:7&15) For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself...(15) Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died.***

***Offenses will come, but "woe to the one through whom it comes" (Matthew 18:6).***

***(Acts 20:28) “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.***

**5. REFUSing TO FORGIVE him WHEN HE SEEKS IT.**

In our text Jesus teaches us that we must forgive if to be forgiven by the Father

Failure to forgive is just as great a sin as any sin another may do to us.

**6. FAILING TO try to RESTORE HIM.**

***(Galatians 6:1) Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.***

***(James 5:19) Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back,***

The parables of the "lost coin," "lost sheep” tell us of the effort that must be made to find them **(Luke 15).**

**7. EXPRESSing OPEN HATRED FOR a BROTHER.**

***(1 John 4:7-21) Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God… {11} Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. {12} No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us…{20} If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? {21} And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.***

**8. TO FAIL TO TEACH THE truth TO him.**

We are our "brother's keeper." ***(Ezekiel 3:18) “When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.***