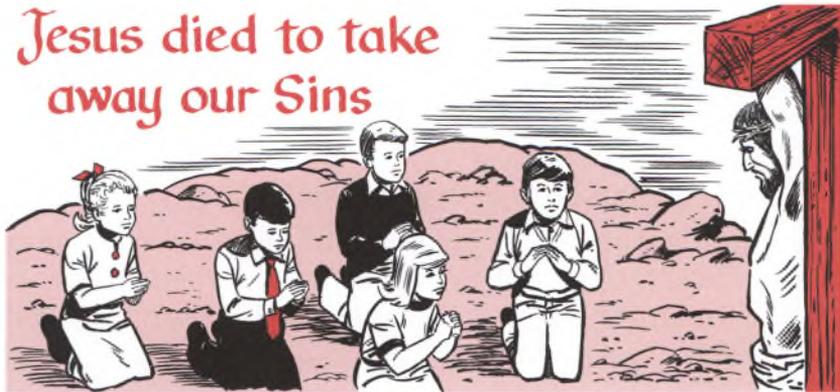


# Jesus died to take away our Sins



## Part Seven — SIN

### CHAPTER

# 18 The Sins of Human Beings

**117.** What is man's greatest problem in working out his salvation?

In working out his salvation, man's greatest problem is sin.

Working out our salvation means doing God's will. The sinner wants to live without regard for God's will. He chooses whatever he thinks will make him happy even though it does not fit into God's plan for him. He does not trust God's love for him.

**118.** How was original sin committed?

(1) God made man in a state of holiness, but man abused his liberty at the urging of the Evil One. (2) He set himself against God and looked for happiness apart from God.

(1) Man was the crown of God's creation; of all on earth he alone could give back to God the love which God first gave him. God wanted men to live as his family, united to each other and to himself in love. Nothing was to disturb this family: sickness, death, ignorance, weakness.

(2) But Adam abused his liberty. He disobeyed and rejected God's care. He wanted to search for happiness in his own way.

### **119. How is man born in original sin?**

Man is born in original sin because fallen human nature, stripped of the grace that clothed it, hurt in its natural powers, and subjected to death, was carried on to all men.

When Adam sinned, he cut himself off from God. He was stripped of the grace God had given him. His human nature was harmed in its natural powers. Sickness and death entered his life. Adam's descendants were to suffer in the same way. Men are born into this world separated from their loving Father and subject to death. The main sign of sin in the world is man rejecting God. Other signs are war, poverty, hunger, hatred of people, violence, and other injustices.

### **120. What is personal sin?**

Personal sin is committed by a person who, acting knowingly and willingly, breaks the moral law.

Sin is willful disobedience to God. This disobedience may be an action, a thought, a desire or an intention.

### **121. What happens when the sinner commits a personal sin?**

The sinner who commits a personal sin (1) fails in love of God, (2) turns away from his goal of doing God's will, (3) and by serious offense (mortal sin), breaks his relationship with the Father.

(1) The sinner fails in love of God because he is willing to turn against God.

(2) The sinner chooses to do his own will rather than God's will. He is willing to displease God and even lose his friendship.

(3) Serious or mortal sin is a rejection of God which destroys the life shared between God and the sinner. It is a serious violation of the law of God.

A small violation of the law of God (venial sin) does not take away God's life from the soul or break God's friendship, but it weakens our love for God and harms ourselves and others.

The effect of mortal sin is separation from God and damage to ourselves and others. If we do not wish to change and continue to refuse to do what God wants us to do, the separation from God lasts. The Church calls this permanent separation from God "hell."

### **122. What must the Christian have to commit a sin?**

To commit a sin the Christian must have (1) clear knowledge of right and wrong, (2) so as to be able to choose with an informed conscience to love God and avoid offending him.

(1) The person who commits the sin must know what he is doing and that what he is doing is an offense against God.

(2) There must be full consent of the will in the case of a serious sin.

### **123. What must we believe concerning God's forgiveness?**

We must believe (1) that God is merciful and will pardon the sinner who is truly sorry (2) and by the power of his grace will draw him to salvation.

(1) Only God can forgive our sins. He chose his Son to be the one to suffer and to die for our sins. Jesus is called our Savior because he saved us from sin. God will pardon us if we are truly sorry for our sins and want to change our sinful ways. We can always look to God for merciful forgiveness.

(2) In the sacrament of penance Jesus forgives our sins, and gives us the peace which belongs to God's children. He also gives

us his grace to overcome sin in the future. He gives us the strength to be faithful to God's law of love. Through his grace he draws us to salvation.

*Teacher reference: Principal Elements, no. 98*

### A. FILL IN THE BLANKS

- In working out his salvation man's greatest problem is .....  
..... (117)
- (1) Original sin was committed because man abused his.....  
..... at the urging of ..... (2) He set him-  
self against .....and looked for happiness apart  
from ..... (118)
- Man is born in original sin because fallen human nature, strip-  
ped of ....., hurt in ....., and  
subjected to ....., was carried on to .....(119)
- Personal sin is committed by a person who.....(120)
- A sinner who commits a personal sin (1) fails in .....  
(2) turns away from ....., (3) and by serious  
offense breaks ..... (121)
- To commit a sin the Christian must have (1) .....  
(2) so as to be able to .....to love God and avoid  
offending him. (122)
- We must believe (1) that God is merciful and will .....  
(2) and by the power of his grace will .....(123)

### B. BIBLE READING

Luke 15:11-32

#### The Prodigal Son

There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, "Father, give me my share of the property." And when the father had given him his share, the young man went to a distant country and spent the money foolishly.

And when he had spent all he had, there was a severe famine in that country, and he became hungry. So he got a job as a keeper of pigs. For food he had to be satisfied with what was left over after the pigs had finished eating.

When he came to his right mind, he said to himself, "How many of my father's servants have enough to eat and to spare, and here I am dying of hunger. I will go back to my father, and say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you, and am no



longer worthy to be called your son. Let me be a hired servant in your house.’”

So he started homeward. But while he was still a long way off, the father saw him. He ran to meet him, and kissed him and held him tightly. “Father, I have done wrong in the sight of God, and of you!” cried the boy; “I am not worthy to be called your son.”

But the father said to his servants, “Bring out the best clothes and put them on him, and put a ring on his finger, and shoes on his feet, and let us feast and be glad today, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found!” And they had a great feast.

But the elder son had been out in the field all the while, and now he came near to the house.

“How many years have I obeyed you,” said the elder son to his father, “and you never even gave a young goat to eat with my friends. But now that this rascal comes back after wasting all your money, you give a grand feast for him!”

“Son,” said his father, “you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. Let us be happy and rejoice, for your brother was dead, and has come to life; he was lost, and is found.”

**Discussion:**

1. What did the younger son ask his father to do for him?
2. What happened to the younger son after he left his father?
3. What happened when the younger brother came home?
4. What did the father tell the servants to do?
5. What did the older son say to his father?
6. What answer did the father give his older son?
7. What does this story teach us about the sacrament of penance?

**C. PRACTICE**

1. Since mortal sin is treated so lightly by the world, we must always strive to keep alive in ourselves a real hatred of it. We can do this by remembering the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ, the price for the mortal sins of men.
2. In order to avoid mortal sin we must try to avoid even less serious sins. If we are faithful to God in smaller things we shall be faithful to him in serious things. We should pray for help from God when we are tempted to sin. If we do so, God will always give us strength to overcome temptation. In order to avoid sin we must also avoid any person, place or thing which may lead us into sin.

**JESUS SPEAKS:**

**“Anyone who wishes to follow me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.”** (Mt 16:24)

**“Pray that you may not enter into temptation.”** (Lk 22:40)

**“What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his very life? Or what can he give in exchange for his life?”** (Mt 16:26)