
Series: Letting Go of Your Past Giving Up Your Guilt

Matthew 26:75-27:5 (NIV)

Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

^{27:1}Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people came to the decision to put Jesus to death. ²They bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.

³When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. ⁴"I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood."

"What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility."

⁵So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

1. THE WRONG WAY TO DEAL WITH GUILT— CONDEMNATION

v. 3-5 "When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. 'I have sinned,' he said, 'for I have betrayed innocent blood.'

'What is that to us?' they replied. 'That's your responsibility.'

So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself."

Every guilty person is his own hangman.

LUCIUS ANNAEUS SENECA (C. 4 B.C.—A.D. 65)

- Guilt brings us to the place of remorse.
- The enemy uses guilt to bring shame.
- Shame left unchecked will bring us full circle to condemnation.

Romans 8:1 (NIV)

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2. THE REAL PURPOSE OF GUILT—CONVICTION

The purpose of being guilty is to bring us to Jesus. Once we are there, then its purpose is finished. If we continue to make ourselves guilty—to blame ourselves—then that is sin in itself. CORRIE TEN BOOM (1892–1983)

- Guilt has a purpose to bring our sins back to mind.
- The purpose of guilt is to bring conviction of sin.
- Guilt is the early step that moves us toward repentance.

3. THE RIGHT WAY TO DEAL WITH GUILT—CONFESSION

v. 75 *Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.*

- Our sin does not have to be permanent failure.
- God uses guilt to lead us to repentance.

1 Chronicles 21:8 (NIV)

Then David said to God, "I have sinned greatly by doing this. Now, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing."

- Confession of our sins brings the cleansing we need.

1 John 1:9 (NIV)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Psalms 103:12 (NIV)

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Jeremiah 31:34c (NIV)

"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

Jeremiah 33:8 (NIV)

I will cleanse them from all the sin they have committed against me and will forgive all their sins of rebellion against me.

Guilt left unchecked brings us to a place of condemnation and shame. However God uses guilt to bring repentance which leads us toward confession and restoration.