

Prisoners of Sin

by Linda McCausland

The Lord is gracious and compassionate; slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. Psalm 145:8-9

The weight of my sin I tend to ignore. It's so easy to do. However, I can't completely ignore sinfulness when I see what it does to others in this life. I'm not talking about the victims. I'm talking about the perpetrators. I see the effects on the people who steal, harm others, use legal and illegal substances, and other criminal or immoral acts. I am a criminal defense attorney. Many of my colleagues get hardened by what they see. I haven't. Why? Let me explain.

Laws are made to help society live peacefully within its boundaries. People will go outside of those boundaries and commit crimes for generally selfish reasons. If you've never been in the criminal system it's easy to think you could have avoided that error of judgment. I'd never do that, one can justify in your head, but if you covet a house, pieces of jewelry, or even a better looking body, aren't I doing the same thing in God's eyes as stealing? Or, someone makes you so mad you hit the person or wish you hit that person, isn't that wrong to God? As I practice law, I see the effects of what sin can do in our lives. When I see these hurting and hurtful people, I see myself as God must see me. I hurt others around me by my own sin. Man's law holds all of us accountable, if we know it or not. God holds us accountable for His law, if we acknowledge it or not!

Through the grace of God, I feel great compassion for these hurting people. If I can feel compassion in my own mind, how much greater, and beyond my ability to fathom, must God look down upon me and my world--all sinners. He must feel grief over my own "stupid" petty desires and how I live my life devoid of His loving guidance at times. My actions are a crime in His eyes. I deserve to hear I am guilty. I deserve prison for my actions. I deserve to die for my crimes. How I blatantly and constantly ignore the laws and guidelines He has given onto me. I am no better a person than those whose crimes are visible and punished by man, but I'm not left in my sin. I have a Savior.

Dear God, through the sacrifice of Christ, you save me from my selfish and petty desires which lead to sin. Thank you for loving me so much and saving me from my sentence of death because of my sins. Please bless the people who are in our jails. Give to them the ability to see your great love and peace which you so freely give to all your children in Jesus Christ's name we pray. Amen



Season: Lent

Video: 19. Are We Imitators of Christ?

Devotions: 90. CSI

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Prayer: 1. Jesus, forgive us when our pride starts boasting of our lack of...

Super Girl: 125. "Sin is a misdemeanor in the eyes of the world unless you're found out, then..."

Scripture References: Matthew 19:17; Mark 10:18; Genesis 1:4; Psalm 100:5; Psalm 136:1; Psalm 145:15; Jeremiah 33:11; Nahum 1:7

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