



This point is further underscored in the story of the rich young ruler (Luke 18:18-27). The rich young ruler explained to Jesus that he had kept all of the commandments from the time of his youth. Jesus responded to him by saying, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven.” At these words, the young ruler left sorrowfully. Though he had kept all of the commandments save one, he was still living in sin, due to the fact that he valued his wealth more than his relationship with God. According to Jesus’ statement, the young man only lacked “one thing,” yet it was still enough to keep him from the presence of the Lord. So, in this context, all sins are the same.

However, the fact that any sin can condemn a person does not mean that all sins are judged the same, or have the same spiritual consequences. The Bible plainly states, in numerous places, that God considers some sins to be “greater,” or more evil than others. For instance, in Exodus 32:21, Moses asked Aaron: “What did this people do to you, that you brought so great a sin upon them?” Obviously, this is comparative language, indicating that Aaron’s sin was more evil, or had greater implications than some other sin. We see this concept carried over into the New Testament as well. In Matthew 5:19, Jesus said that whoever breaks “the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven.” Clearly, certain commandments were considered “least” and, by comparison, others must have been considered “greater.” The concept of “greater” commandments is found in Matthew 23:23. There Jesus chastised the Pharisees for “neglecting the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith.” His point was very clear; the failure to tithe a tiny amount of spices was much less of a sin than the failure to administer justice and mercy to one’s fellow man.

Perhaps the most explicit demonstration of this principle is expressed in Jesus’ conversation with Pilate. In John 19:11, Jesus said to Pilate, “[T]he one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.” His statement could not be more direct. The individual responsible for delivering Jesus over to Pilate had committed a sin greater than the sin committed by Pilate.

With this in mind, a person may wonder how all sins can cause a person to be lost, but some sins are judged to be greater than others. A simple illustration will suffice to make this situation clear. Suppose that a person borrows money from the bank to buy a \$10,000 car. That person pays the bank back \$9,000, but stops making payments on the car. What will happen? The bank will repossess the car, even though the person paid off all of the balance except \$1,000. Any unpaid balance is enough to lose the car. Now suppose a person borrows \$10,000 on a car and does not pay any of it back. What will happen? The bank will repossess the car. In these two cases, does one person have a greater debt than the other? Certainly, the one who still owes \$10,000. But are both debts, even though they are of unequal value, enough to cost both borrowers their cars? Yes. [NOTE: At Apologetics Press we have answered related questions such, “Are There Degrees of Punishment and Reward?” (see [Butt](#), et al., 2000), and “Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit—‘The Unpardonable Sin’” ([Butt](#), 2003).]

## Order of Service

Opening Remarks	Ray Parks
Song Leader	Don Petrosky, Jr.
Song	
Song	
Prayer	Leonard Meredith
Song	
Communion	Clay Bond Dylan Petrosky
Song	
Song	
Sermon	Clay Bond
Song	
Offering	
Closing Remarks	Ray Parks
Song	
Dismissal Prayer	Ray Parks

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Today Potluck Fellowship
- Welcome! Theresa Lyda has moved to the area and will work worshipping and serving the Lord with us.
- June 5<sup>th</sup> – Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> Summer Series this week – Matthew Gibson – James
- Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Gospel Meeting with Ken Hope

### **Wednesday Devotional**

Summer Series June-August

### **...Prayer List...**

*Gay Kyle, Butch Crownover, Chris’ cousin Tyler, Esmeralda Medina, Gary, Tom Barr, Don & Sherri Blackwell, Melvin Wright, Tammy Whitman, Sean Bothwell, Nan Phillips*

Remember our college students who are away at school: Jarrett & Luke Haydon

Shut-Ins: Robbi George

Attendance: Sunday AM: 35 PM: 33 Wednesday: 31 Contribution: \$2750.17