

Volume 2, Day 24: The Cart before the Horse

Sin seems to be the focus of almost everything we do in Christianity. The idea that our sin separates us from God, and even though He forgives us, we are still obsessed with sin, plagues us. We teach each other that we have to stop sinning. We must repent every time we sin if we are good Christians. And that doesn't work very well. Unfortunately, we have succumbed to the lie that our testimony is our better behavior. That is not what Jesus told His disciples about their testimony.

But I do get the question a lot. What do I do about my sins, my mistakes, my failures, the bitterness I have in my heart, the unforgiveness towards somebody? Do I have to fix that for Jesus to be close to me and for this journey to work? I actually want to say it works the other way around. That's why we haven't talked about sin a whole lot. Our sin is forgiven at the cross. God is no longer holding sin against us. That's not just the sins we committed before we came to know him. That's also true about the sins we still struggle with today.

How do we deal with that? The Old Testament, I think, left us with this idea that the more righteous we could be, the more relationship with God we could have. But Jesus says in the New Testament that isn't actually the way it works. He says, apart from me, you can do nothing, which would mean that until we know Him, we can't be changed. What is actually true is this. The more relationship with God, we'll have, the more righteous He'll make us to be. The transformation comes from Him, not from us. Our testimony is the transformation to be lovers like Jesus. We love without conditions of behavior or motive, just like Jesus loves. "Love Like Jesus Loves!"