

Other Men's Sins

by Thomas Brooks

Other men's sins serve as a reminder of the badness of our own hearts and the importance of mourning for others' wickedness.

Scripture: Psalm 119:136, Proverbs 14:9, Ezekiel 18:30, Matthew 5:4, Luke 19:41-44, Romans 12:15, 2 Corinthians 1:24, Galatians 6:1, James 4:9, 1 Peter 5:8

Topics: "Compassion for the Lost", "Mourning for Sin"

Description

Thomas Brooks emphasizes that witnessing the sins of others serves as a sobering reminder of the inherent sinfulness within ourselves. He illustrates this through the story of an old man who mourned for others' sins, recognizing that today's sinner could be tomorrow's fall. A holy heart, he argues, should grieve for the sins of others, as this mourning helps to maintain purity and compassion. Brooks warns against those who take pleasure in the sins of others, suggesting that such attitudes align more with Satan than with true humanity. Ultimately, he calls for a deep empathy towards the lost, urging believers to weep for the chains of sin that bind them.

Transcript

By other men's sins, a holy man is put in mind of the badness of his own heart. Bernard makes mention of an old man, who, when he saw any man sin, lamented and wept for him; and being asked why he grieved so, for other men's sins, answered, "He fell today--and I may fall tomorrow!" The falls of others puts a holy man in mind of the roots of sinfulness which are in himself. Other men's actual sins are as so many glasses, through which a holy man comes to see the manifold seeds of sin which are in his own heart--and such a sight as this

cannot but melt him and break him.

A holy heart knows that the best way to keep himself pure from other men's sins, is to mourn for other men's sins. He who makes conscience of weeping over other men's sins--will rarely be defiled with other men's sins.

A holy heart looks upon other men's sins as their bonds and chains--and this makes him mourn. Ah, how can tears but trickle down a Christian's cheeks, when he sees multitudes, fast bound with the cords of their iniquity, trooping to hell? Who can look upon a sinner as a bound prisoner to the prince of darkness--and not bemoan him? If holy people thus mourn for the wickedness of others, then certainly those who take pleasure in the wickedness of others--who laugh and joy, who can make a sport of other men's sins--are rather monsters than men! There are none so nearly allied to Satan as these--nor any so resemble Satan as much as these! (The devil always joys most--when sinners sin most!) To applaud them, and take pleasure in those who take pleasure in sin--is the highest degree of ungodliness!

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