



A John and Eileen Sala Prison and Teaching Ministry



Little Lambs Inc.

www.littlelambsinc.org

PO Box 504@ 710 S. Eucalyptus St. Sebring, FL 33870 863-273-6075 **September 2023**

What is the most dangerous word in the Bible?

Our newsletter devotion this month asks a critically important question: What is the most dangerous word in the Bible?

Preparing this lesson has not been easy: 66 separate books, 1,189 different chapters and almost 400,000 words to choose from, including Mephibosheth, Melchizedek, Ahithopel the Gilonite and hundreds of other words which I could neither spell nor pronounce. Where do we even start? I invite you, my reader, to take this challenge. For just a moment, right where you are, what word would you pick if you were asked to choose the most dangerous word in the Bible?

For me, the first word that popped into my head was the word “sin.” Without a doubt, “sin” runs rampant throughout the Old and New Testaments, usually with well earned dire consequences attached. “sin” is confessed, denied, hidden behind a fig leaf, lied about and preached against from Genesis to revelation. So “sin” must be the most dangerous word, right?

But the more I thought about it, maybe “sin” would not be my choice. Why? Because there is an antidote, a cure, if you will. In fact, that is the Gospel story. Consider this verse from 1 John:

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9.

Hallelujah? There is a fail-safe remedy for sin, backed by the promise of God. So, I have decided to take “sin” off the board.

What about “hell” or “death”? I mean “hell” is well...hell. Eternal separation from God. Very, very scary. Beyond dangerous. This must be the correct answer to Double Jeopardy, for sure. But wait, what about this verse from Romans?

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” Romans 10:9

Simply put, if we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, hell has no hold on you, or on me. This is a promise of salvation, complete with everlasting life? So, cross “hell” off the list.

What about “death”? Wait, we just covered that. And further:

“For He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.” 1 Corinthians 15:25-26

Continued on page 2

So, “death,” you are also out.

Where does that leave us? Well, after searching the Bible cover to cover, I think I have the answer. SPOILER ALERT. This is only my opinion. You are entitled to your own opinion.

THE MOST DANGEROUS WORD IN THE BIBLE IS THE WORD 'AS'. Just two letters. It is an adverb. It modifies a verb. It means 'to the same extent' and "in the same way/" how can that be so very dangerous? Before you run me out of town, please let me explain.

Consider for a moment Jesus' Sermon on the Mount as re-told by Matthew in his Gospel. Specifically, Chapter 6. Every person reading this devotion will immediately recognize this passage-guaranteed.

“Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts...”

Matthew 6:9-12

I told you that you would recognize it. The Lord's Prayer! Certainly, one of the-all-time most beloved passages of Scripture, perhaps learned and memorized at your dear Mother's knee. Nothing more precious! But I digress. Let's get back to our theme. How can we relate that most dangerous word -- “as”-- to this iconic prayer?

Here's how. First, do you remember that “as” means “to the same extent” and “in the same way?” Second, did you notice above that I stopped short of finishing verse 12 intentionally? Third, our most dangerous word “as” modifies the verb *forgive*. So, now allow me to finish verse 12, with some amplification.

Forgive us our debts **as (to the same extent and in the same way)** that we forgive our debtors.” (emphasis supplied)

WOW! Do you see what we are praying for? We are asking God to forgive us, but only to the same extent that we have forgiven others who have wronged us. Just suppose, hypothetically of course, that there is someone in my past who has hurt me really bad, maybe years ago. Maybe that someone lied about me, or gave me their word but then broke it, or accused me of something absolutely did not do. And just suppose, hypothetically of course, that I am still holding a grudge, never having forgiven them. Do you see what that does to my prayer? It turns my prayer on its ear: “Lord, please forgive me today, but only to the extent that I have forgiven my reprobate, ex-brother-in-law, hypothetically of course, who did yada, yada, yada to me back in 1997.” yes, the word “as” is a most dangerous word for me. And for you too, if you have an ex-brother-in-law, hypothetically of course.

Let's close in prayer: Lord help me to remember the name or names of people in my life who I have never completely forgiven. And then give me the grace and strength to forgive them today.
In Jesus' name. Amen. Blessings to all, Mike Rider, Volunteer

P.S. When I forgive someone else, I set a prisoner free; only to find out later, that that prisoner was me (Author unknown).



Hello!! My name is Tim. I am currently at prison in Florida. I am interested in participating in your bible study. I have been incarcerated now for 51 months straight. I get out next year and I want to get more into the Bible and have a better understanding . Also, I want to have a closer relationship with God. This is my third time in prison and I want to do better in my life. I'm sick and tired of this prison system and dealing with everything that's going on, on a daily basis. I truly and sincerely want to do better in my life, to have a positive outlook on things and I really want to change for the better. I am 34 years old and I truly want to change my life because if I don't I'll either end up dead or in prison for the rest of my life. I know there's more to life: Joy, Peace , Positivity, Love , Hope, Mercy, Grace and Charity. I hope to hear back from you soon and I hope to enroll in your bible study. Thank you for your time and consideration. God bless! Tim, FL

ESSAY: SEEDS Luke 8:11-15 Vs 12 is talking to indifferent hearers, Satan's work, unbelievers. Vs 13 is speaking to Emotional hearers, their instability, they yielding to temptation and also to backsliders. Vs 14 is speaking to Worldly hearers, they worry about worldly cares, riches, business cares, pleasure-seekers and the unfruitfulness. Vs 15 speaks to Receptive hearers. They have a renewed heart. They hear, they keep the Word, their fruitfulness and patience. By Brandon, Graduate lesson.

Dear Little Lambs Inc., My name is Jared, I am 35 years old and have been incarcerated for 14 years. I served in the "Army for 3 years just prior to my incarceration and committed murder shortly after returning fro Iraq. I struggled adjusting to incarceration back in 2009, and ran with some bad people for 4 years (in prison). I surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ in 2014. Presently, I work for the Chaplain and I came cross your promo packet for this discipleship ministry. I think this is wonderful! For some reason, your packet was filed away and none of the guys here even knew about this ministry. Anyway , the one thing I have lacked over the years is long term, focused discipleship training. I believe I have stagnated in my growth because of this. Thus, I would humbly request enrollment in your program, and am willing to follow through and follow directions. I have a KJV, and I am able to pay postage. I look forward to haring from y'all! *Although we laboriously and expensively create these 'Chaplain's Packets' and send to chaplains, we don't usually know the results. It is very encouraging to see an inmate really excited about it. Hopefully he has posted the information for the rest of the inmates to see and join. Pray for the reach of these packets!*

To Little Lamb Ministry, I myself have been informed about you as a faithful brother in Christ about your Bible Study. As far as being saved, I've given my life to Christ June 24, 2017. Since then I've been willing to let God use me. I think that this is a beautiful thing that you all are doing reaching out to the world with the message of Jesus Christ. I'm always willing to lean more about the Word of God. We, as believers, should seek others to learn more about God through Jesus Christ. I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to be able to fellowship with other believers on my unit with the Bible studies you al provide. I want to say Thank You again and may God richly bless you all Beloved ministry. Jerry

ESSAY: SEEDS Luke 8:11-15 Vs 12 is talking to indifferent hearers, Satan's work, unbelievers. Vs 13 is speaking to Emotional hearers, their instability, they yielding to temptation and also to backsliders. Vs 14 is speaking to Worldly hearers, they worry about worldly cares, riches, business cares, pleasure-seekers and the unfruitfulness. Vs 15 speaks to Receptive hearers. They have a renewed heart. They hear, they keep the Word, their fruitfulness and patience. By Brandon, Graduate lesson.

Little Lambs,

I would like to thank you for allowing me to be a part of your Bible Course. It has helped me memorize scripture and I have learned a lot about scripture that I had forgotten. I was raised in the church (Pentecostal). My uncle is a Pastor and my mother and he went to South Eastern Bible College in Florida. My mother's side of my family are pastors, ministers of music, in the choir. All of them are very involved in the church. Growing up I got saved when I was 8 years old. But looking back I never let the church in. I did what was expected. It felt like I was force fed the bible. We lived church. We were the first ones there and the last ones to leave. Most of my family go to the same church for generations. Anyway I felt trapped so when I got out on my own, I rebelled and stopped going to church or reading my bible for a good many years. In 2013, my prayer warrior died and she always kept on me to get back in church because she wanted to see me in heaven some day. She passed away that year and I started getting convicted to come back to God. So in 2015, I rededicated my life to Christ. My old sins pop up in my mind from time to time but I pray for the Lord to help me get rid of them altogether. So I am learning things forgotten and I appreciate what you are doing for people in a bad situation. Thanks , Jason



Dear Partners,

Fall seems to have finally arrived and I for one am very grateful! But that means changes. As you know, I have been struggling with my back since March, arriving at the need to sell my home because I am no longer be able to do the work to keep it up. I am hopeful to move into the apartment above the ministry for the time being. It is going to require work to bring it up to habitable standards before that can happen. At least there I will have no need to do physical labor! We started some of the work upstairs with an east wall that was not sealed or insulated, very porous to the heat. So porous that we could not run A/C there, it would be a waste of money. We did it for classes, but then shut it off when not in use. Proudly, I can say that Joey and Jose from the 2nd Chance Ministry, both graduates, did the work of completely re-making that wall. The difference was startling! They will start the same on the ceiling next. It is in the same condition. Joey Engle is planning to open his own contracting business as soon as he gets his license which he is working on.



All that aside, we received word this week that the state of Texas prison system has gone all digital. We have applied for "approved status" for our lessons to continue to go directly to the inmates. Please pray that we are approved soon as we currently have 277 students in Texas, a few of those in the Federal Prison system. Our office has been scrambling and I must give our ladies lots of credit as we stay on top of so many changes these days. We have held our Texas mail this week waiting for an answer from the state office. Please pray that we hear positively soon. With our relationship with Chaplain Ray and International Prison Ministry in Texas, we have always had a lot of students and we want to keep those, even grow those we now have. Please pray that the Lord will give our nation the will to fight this fentanyl epidemic and give men and women a chance to know God.

Your servant, Eileen Sala