**Be Careful With Sin**

The other night when I was driving home late from Dion’s house, I made the mistake of buying a pumpkin muffin from dunkin donuts and tried eating it while I was driving. I got home and Beth said what happened to my pants. I looked down and evidently all the crumbs had dusted my pants!

A while back I had some work done on my car’s transmission for a problem with third gear. A Honda mechanic rebuilt my transmission. You see my manual transmission has a spot that works for sixth gear going forward and for reverse going backwards. But if that pin is not in correctly, the car will not move. During the course of his work he put the pin in the wrong way. He had to take the entire transmission apart to find the pin and put it in correctly. One mistake cost him an entire day of work.

We got this beautiful cake from a loving sister. All I wanted was to enjoy one piece of this cake. I cut a piece and then proceeded to put it back in the refrigerator. While doing so it became unbalanced and I dropped the cake on the floor, shattering the plate it was on into a bazillion pieces. Then I spend the next 20 minutes cleaning up the mess I made. And Beth was finding pieces of that plate under the refrigerator, in the refrigerator, and around the kitchen cabinets for a week! One accidental moment caused a really big mess!

How many times will we spill something and it ends up getting everywhere! Runs down a cabinet, gets in a drawer, and ends up on the floor. Spilling paint, milk, syrup, cokes, and juices seem to always make much more mess than you realize. For those of us who work on cars, one oil spill or leak on the top of a motor can end up being something that takes a long time to clean up.

All these illustrations are very similar to how sin impacts us. One sin can end up taking much time to correct and cause us heartache our entire life. **The lesson: Let us be careful to try not to sin.** Beware of it creeping in. Be careful of our own desires leading us away to sin (**James 1:12-15**). Beware of Satan subtly sneaking into our hearts. Beware of things that tempt us. Beware of listening and following others who are worldly (**1 Peter 5:8**). Because sin always makes a big mess that needs to be cleaned up. Notice some examples of people sinning and making big messes.

Adam and Eve (**Genesis 3**); Cain (**Genesis 4**); Moses (**Deuteronomy 32:48-52, 34:1-12**); David and Bathsheba (**2 Samuel 11**); Solomon (**1 Kings 11:1-13**); Annanias & Sapphira (**Acts 5:1-11**)

Peter and Paul made messes with their sins too. Peter was the apostle who defiantly denied that He even knew Jesus (**Matthew 26:69-75**). Yet he led the apostles in the first sermon in **Acts 2** and continued to endure persecutions for the Lord. Paul fought diligently against Christ’s gospel and His people (**Acts 7:58-8:3, 9:1-5**). But as Paul also tells us, there is hope in Jesus that we can find forgiveness (**1 Timothy 1:12-17**).

Jesus can cleanse the sins of our life. We will have to deal with the consequences and messes that result from our sins. But those mistakes and transgressions that we committed will be forgiven and forgotten by God. No matter how terrible those sins are, God sent His only Son to die for you and me so we could be forgiven and one day live in perfect peace with Him (**Romans 5:6-11**). Set free as a bird let out of his cage to fly in the sky!

***Have you been baptized to wash away your sins?*** ***To be buried with Christ to die to sin and rise up alive to God to do His will?*** Notice **Romans 6:1-11.**

If we can help you now, please come forward while we stand and sing.