

Evil is Immortal¹

Nehemiah 13:1, 2

INTRODUCTION:

1. "...no Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God."
2. The severe exclusion of Moabite and Ammonite was an enacted token against sin.
3. Even blood relations were to be kept away, because they showed no sympathy with Israel and made a deliberate attempt to involve God's people in sin (cf. Num. 22-25; Micah 6:5; Zeph. 2:8, 9).
4. Many stern Mosaic statutes exhibit the heinousness of sin.

DISCUSSION:

I. Evil cannot be undone.

- A. It has become part of the constitution of things.
- B. Man may forget it, and God may forgive it, but it is done.
- C. The doer may plead ignorance, prejudice, habit, custom, or weakness, but the deed is done.
- D. Regret may plead for pity, but the deed is done.

II. Evil molds the sinner, and he is never the same.

- A. A man's trade, profession, or calling is indicated in his features.
- B. Habit is a second nature.
- C. The beauty of the soul touches the form and face.
- D. Vice makes the doer unlovely.
- E. Sin stamps its image on an otherwise divine form.
- F. "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap" (Gal. 6:7).

III. Evil warps others.

- A. Their task is rendered more difficult.
- B. Their steps will be more faltering.
- C. A Moabite could make Israel fall.
- D. "Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin" (1 Kings 22:52; et. al.) has such an immortal title of remembrance.
- E. I am my "brother's keeper" (Gen. 4:9). His path and mine meet.

CONCLUSION:

1. Doing wrong is ruinous.
2. Sin is the great foe.
3. The wages of sin are paid even to the uttermost.

¹ "The Irrevocableness of Wrong-Doing," *The Preacher's Complete Homiletic Commentary on the Book of Nehemiah*, chapters 7-13, Booth, Goodman, and Gregory, eds. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, reprinted 1974), p. 248. Adapted by Andy Kizer.