

Reflections

Who's
Watching?



11-29-09



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The Little boy looked around the room to see if anyone was watching. Seeing no one in sight, he moved the stool over to the counter where the forbidden cookie jar sat inviting the little cookie monster to go where his mother had said not to go. He quietly lifted the lid and grabbed several cookies with the other hand. What he didn't see was the crumbs that fell from his hand as he made his escape with his booty. As if to assure his being caught, the pilfered cookies had left a trail of evidence leading to his hidden location where he was consuming the cookies that he had obtained against his mother's wishes.

Imagine his surprise when his mother, following the trail of crumbs, located his hideout and caught him right in the act of consuming the evidence. When his mother asked rhetorically: What are you doing? I stammered out some ridiculous excuse that, of course, fell on deaf ears. After experiencing the resulting punishment and lecture, I promised myself to be more careful next time I stole from the cookie jar.

Isn't that just like us in our Christian walk? We act like no one is watching as we indulge ourselves in various ways that we know do not meet Biblical standards of discipleship, and yet when caught, we make excuses that are designed to justify our behavior. It seems that our repentance is more related to getting caught than in genuine sorrow for our sinful selfishness. Sometimes we even resort to trying to find "loopholes" in the Scripture to give ourselves permission to continue in our fleshly indulgence. That same Bible, however, condemns our choices to an accounting in God's judgement of our life. Jesus declares... ***"But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. (Matthew 12:36 NKJ)***

When Jesus said that He would never leave us, He meant it. He sent the Holy Spirit to keep our lives focused on being righteous in His sight. ***"And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. (John 16:8-11 NKJ)***

As the Holy Spirit lifts up Jesus in our lives, He convicts us of the unrighteousness in our walk. Remember the cookie crumbs? Sin leaves evidence when it is resident in our lives. We are told in Scripture that the Holy Spirit in us will bear righteous fruit. *...the*

faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

(Galatians 5:22-23 NKJ) These "fruits of the Spirit" stand in stark contrast with the works of the flesh given in the previous verses.

(Galatians 5:19-21) Why is it then, that we seem to behave as if no one is watching and therefore there is no problem? The Bible should for each of us dispel that notion. The Scripture teaches that... ***³ The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good. (Proverbs 15:3 NKJ)***

Adam and Eve discovered that disobedience had both immediate and long-term consequences. First there was their shame as God came to walk with them. Then there was the curse that not only changed their existence, but that has reached across the span of time to continue its impact on all of mankind. It seemed like a simple infraction when Eve was deceived into violating God's Word, but when Adam took of the fruit and ate, they discovered that their choices had far reaching results. Sin is alienation from God leading to death and eternal separation from God. What a fearful price to pay for disobedience.

Sadly, we seem not to have learned from their disobedient lives. We still, like Eve, are drawn to follow our own lusts rather than the Word of God. The "cookie jar" of life seems to invite us to lift the lid and partake of what's inside. We often seem to allow ourselves to become convinced that its okay to sample some of those temptations, after all we have liberty in our Christian walk. What could be wrong with just a little indulgence? Again, we find the answer in the Word. ***...put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. (Romans 13:14 NKJ)*** It should be clear from God's Word that it is the flesh that we were delivered from with Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. If, in fact, Christ paid the price for our sin, and He did, then how should we then live? Once again, the Scripture provides the answer. Paul says to the Roman Christians... ***I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:1-2 NKJ)***

Just like my experience with the cookie jar as a little boy, we need to realize that someone is watching. He sees us, if we have accepted His invitation to accept His provision for our salvation, as His dear children. He not only cares for us, but has promised in the Word that He will discipline as for our good. Is the "cookie jar" of life causing you problems? Remember He is watching, and willing to make a way of escape from that temptation. **Pastor Doug**