

SICK OF EVIL • Week 1: The Infected Society

Daily Briefing • Day 1 of 5 • Appetite for Correction

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

1 Corinthians 5:6

Sunday's message named evil as rebellion against the Designer and His design, the kind that spreads once it takes hold. Today we sit inside the piece the sermon only had time to touch: that design was never arbitrary. It was for your good. You can watch or listen to the sermon at 1mso.church or on the One Missoula app.

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I seek Your help with wanting correction and instruction. My pride can get the best of me, and I find myself resisting anyone telling me what's what. I pray that I would eagerly seek to understand Your design and apply it to my life to the best of my ability. Please help me to treasure the wisdom You have revealed in Your Word, Your instructions, Your commandments, and Your prohibitions. I want to know and do all that You show me. I commit this to You in Jesus' name. Amen.

TODAY'S TEACHING

People will pay real money to be told exactly what to do and what not to do. A personal trainer hands you a workout plan, and you follow it without arguing. A nutrition coach tells you what to eat, and you throw out half your pantry to comply. A business coach hands you a script for your hardest conversations, and you read it word for word, because you believe this person has access to inside information you lack. Sunday's message named evil as rebellion against the Designer and His design. Today we sit inside one specific piece of that: the design God gave was never meant to control you. It was meant to guide you to flourish in what He made you to be and has called you to do.

Deuteronomy is Moses' final address to the people of Israel, delivered on the plains of Moab just before they crossed into the land God had promised them. After forty years in the wilderness, Moses is not handing this generation a fresh set of restrictions. He is reminding them why the commands they had already received mattered in the first place. This is not a king protecting his own power from a distance. This is God explaining His design to the people He built it for.

When Moses asks what God actually requires, the answer is not complicated: fear Him, walk in His ways, love Him, serve Him, and keep what He commands, "for your good" (Deuteronomy 10:12-13). Read that phrase again. Not for God's ego. Not for God's random whims. Not for God's arbitrary control. For your good. The same posture you already hold toward a trainer, a coach, or a mentor is the posture God is inviting you to hold toward Him. The difference is that this coach designed the body, the mind, and the world you are actually trying to thrive in.

But do not mistake this for a life coach handing out friendly suggestions you are free to take or leave. A coach you can fire. A consultant you can ignore and simply hire someone else. The One issuing this instruction is not auditioning for your business. He is the King who made you, and Deuteronomy 30:15-16 does not present His commands as one option among several ways to live well. It presents them as the difference between life and death. Reject the design long enough, and you are not choosing a slower path to the same good outcome. You are choosing rebellion against the One who built the road in the first place, and Scripture does not soften what waits at the end of that road.

READ & MEDITATE

Deuteronomy 10:12-13

"And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?"

Deuteronomy 30:15-16

"See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it."

Read Deuteronomy 10:12-13 and notice that God does not say to obey Him for His own benefit. He says it is for your good. Then read Deuteronomy 30:15-16 and notice the actual choice God sets in front of His people: not obedience versus freedom, but life versus death. A good coach does not hand you a rulebook to slow you down. A good coach hands you a rulebook because they already know how the whole race is run.

REFLECT

Reminder: honest introspection and Scripture-informed self-assessment is far more beneficial than self-delusion and wishful thinking.

You already know what it feels like to trust an expert, coach, teacher, or guru enough to change your whole routine because of what they tell you.

Where in your life right now are you already paying for, or willingly following, expert instruction, whether that is a trainer, a financial advisor, a mentor, or a coach?

Now compare that to how much you actually open and apply what God has already told you for free. What does the gap between those two tell you? This might look like following a workout plan to the letter while skimming past what Scripture says about how you treat your body, taking every note from a business mentor while ignoring what God has already said about honesty while closing a deal, or trusting a popular parenting book instead of the wisdom already sitting in the biblical book of Proverbs.

Every command in this passage has a reason attached to it, whether you notice it or not.

Look again at Deuteronomy 10:12-13. What does this passage actually tell you about God's motive for giving Israel these commands?

Fill in the blank from Deuteronomy 10:12-13:

"...and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your _____?" (Deuteronomy 10:12-13)

**These fill-in-the-blank questions use the ESV text. Your Bible may use different words for the same idea.*

Why do you think God chose to end this list with that specific word instead of simply commanding obedience and stopping there?

You already read what God set in front of His people: life and good, or death and evil. That same design still governs how things actually work today.

Think of one area of your life right now where you have been treating God's instruction as a restriction rather than a path to life.

What would it look like this week to treat it instead as coaching from someone who already knows how this is supposed to go?

Most resistance to God's instruction is not really about a specific command. It is about whether you actually trust the one giving it.

Is there a specific place in your life right now where you already know what God's design calls for, and you have quietly decided you know better? Name it if you can.

This might look like assuming your business instincts don't need Scripture's input because they have worked so far, deciding a relationship is fine to keep even though it consistently pulls you away from Christ, or trusting your own read on a financial decision more than what Scripture already says about greed and contentment. Do some honest introspective self-assessment before moving on.

PRAYER

Write your prayer or pray out loud. As we've read, God's ear is not dull. Talk to Him like He is listening and wants to hear from you.

MEMORY VERSE

Write or recite 1 Corinthians 5:6 from memory:
