

SICK OF EVIL • Week 1: The Infected Society

Daily Briefing • Day 2 of 5 • Spreading Evil

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 contagion as one of the ways evil actually spreads through a family, a workplace, or a whole society. Today we slow down on how that mechanism works and where it may already have a foothold in your own life. You can watch or listen to the sermon at 1mso.church or on the One Missoula app.

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I pray that You would open my eyes to the influences that are silently, secretly, and discreetly shaping my beliefs and behaviors. Also, show me how my own behaviors are affecting and infecting those around me. God, help me to identify where I have adopted destructive values and ways without even realizing it. Give me wisdom on how to place myself around people and situations that promote my growing into who You made me to be and what You called me to do. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

TODAY'S TEACHING

You have felt this even if you have never put a name to it. Spend a few weeks around people who complain about everything, and you will notice yourself complaining more. Spend a season on a team where trash talk is normal, and trash talk will start to feel normal to you too. Slide into a friend group where cutting corners is just how things are done, and cutting corners will stop registering as a big deal. Sunday's message named this as one of the ways evil actually spreads, not through one dramatic decision but by normalizing things, similar to the way a cold works its way through a classroom. Today we slow down on how that actually happens.

Proverbs 22:24-25 sits inside a section of short, practical sayings written by a father coaching a son on how to build a wise life one decision at a time. Proverbs is not a list of guarantees. It is a description of how life tends to go when you factor in the way God actually designed people to work, including the part of us that absorbs whatever we stay close to.

The writer of this Proverb warns, "Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare" (Proverbs 22:24-25). Notice the reasoning. The danger is not that an angry person might hurt you directly. The danger is quieter than that. Stay close to someone's pattern long enough, and you will learn it, whether or not you ever decide to. That is not a threat from God. It is a plain description of the way He built you.

This is what the Bible calls "leaven". A little tolerance for something does not stay contained in one corner of a person's life or one corner of society. It works its way through whoever stays close enough to catch it. God revealed this centuries before anyone had phrases like "peer influence" or "social contagion".

READ & MEDITATE

Proverbs 22:24-25

"Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare."

1 Corinthians 15:33

"Do not be deceived: 'Bad company ruins good morals.'"

Read Proverbs 22:24-25 and mark the word "learn." The warning is not that a wrathful person might attack you. It is that you will absorb his pattern just by staying close. Then read 1 Corinthians 15:33. In that passage, Paul is actually correcting people who let false teaching about the resurrection talk them into loose living ([1 Corinthians](#)

15:32–34), but he makes his point by quoting a maxim everyone already knew to be true: company does not stay neutral. It shapes you... and you shape them.

REFLECT

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

You did not choose most of the people who have shaped how you handle anger, money, temptation, or anything else for that matter. You just spent time near them.

Think of one person you spend regular time with. What have you picked up from them without ever deciding to?

Now think about what you may be passing on to the people who spend time near you. This might look like a coworker who picked up your sarcasm, a sibling who picked up your temper, or a friend who picked up your habit of talking about people behind their back. What do you think they have caught from you?

Proverbs is not making a threat here; it's articulating design. It is describing how God actually built people to work. What does it tell you about God's design for people that proximity has this much power over you? Why do you think He built us this way instead of making each of us immune to influence?

Fill in the blank from Proverbs 22:24-25:

“...nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his _____ and entangle yourself in a snare.”

(Proverbs 22:24-25)

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

Notice what the proverb actually tells you to do about the wrathful man. It does not say resist his ways. It says stay away from him. That is because this kind of learning does not wait for your permission or announce itself before it moves in.

Question: Where has that kind of passive learning already happened in you? This might be a short temper you never decided to have, a habit of laziness or cutting corners you picked up simply by being around it long enough, or a way of talking about people that started sounding normal before you ever noticed it had moved in. Name one pattern in yourself that you did not choose so much as absorb.

This works in both directions. The same closeness that spreads anger can spread patience. The same proximity that spreads gossip can spread integrity.

Who in your life is currently modeling something you actually want to catch?

What would it look like to spend more deliberate time near that person or that kind of community this week, rather than just hoping it happens on its own?

A little leaven does not stay in one corner of the loaf. It works through the whole thing.

Is there a pattern in your life right now, something you picked up from someone else, that you have never actually named as something you are now passing on to others? Name it if you can.

This might look like a short temper you learned from a parent and are now modeling for your own kids, a habit of cutting corners at work that you picked up from a coworker and are now teaching someone newer than you, or a critical way of talking about people that you learned from a friend group and now use without thinking. 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:
