

## Hiding Our Sins From God

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by Wayne Goff

*Man has ever thought he could hide his sins from God, only to learn that nothing is hidden from the all-seeing, all-mighty God.*

*“Woe to those who seek deep to hide their counsel far from the LORD, and their works are in the dark; they say, ‘Who sees us?’ and, ‘Who knows us?’”* Isaiah 29:15

One of the reasons God gave for threatening to destroy Judah in Isaiah’s day (700 B.C.) was that they tried to hide their sins from God. It wasn’t just that they were *childish* in this matter, but that their *rebellion* led them to so act. God expected honor, loyalty and respect from His people, and He received lies, deception and dishonor instead.

From the earliest days of recorded history, man has tried to hide himself from God when he sinned. Adam and Eve *“heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden”* (Gen. 3:8). What formerly had been a wonderful fellowship with their Creator suddenly became their hearts’ terror!

When my twin boys were very young, they would come running when they heard their daddy coming home from a day’s work. What a joyful time for all of us. But as they got older and learned to play with *forbidden* matches, seeing my car come around the corner struck fear in their little hearts and off they ran to hide. They knew better, knew they were in trouble, and knew they had to do something besides just stand there looking guilty! I’m sure my own father could tell a story or two on me as a little fellow.

The Bible is replete with examples of those who sinned and tried to hide it. **Achan** and his whole family were stoned to death when covetousness led him to steal forbidden wealth taken from the defeated city of Jericho (Josh. 7). When that crime led to the deaths of several soldiers in their next skirmish against Ai, Joshua came to God and asked why. God told him that there was sin in the camp! Tribe by tribe, family by family, one by one, the search finally came down to Achan. Joshua said to him, *“My son, I beg you, give glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me”* (v. 19). As God had already warned Israel through Moses, *“...be sure your sin will find you out”* (Num. 32:23). What seemed like a good idea led to tremendous catastrophe!

King David committed adultery with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite, while that faithful soldier was out fighting for David’s kingdom! When Bathsheba became pregnant with David’s baby, the king tried his best to cover it up, all to no avail (2 Sam. 11). Finally, through political maneuvering David had Uriah killed in battle, only to find out that God had seen the whole thing! (2 Sam. 12).

Elihu, a friend of Job’s, once said correctly: *“For His eyes are on the ways of man, and He sees all his steps. There is no darkness nor shadow of death where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves”* (Job 34:22). But that doesn’t keep man from trying!

Why do you think most crimes are committed in the dark of night? Because the perpetrators think they will not be seen! Psalm 139:1-8 tells us that there is not a place in the universe where one can hide from God!

**The Solution?** Take responsibility for your actions, beg forgiveness from our merciful God, and find forgiveness and healing in the blood of His Son, Jesus, Who died that you might find *“mercy and grace to help in time of need”* (Heb. 4:16).

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