

## THE SIN OF DOING NOTHING

**“Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins” (Ja. 4:17)**

This amazing verse helps to open our minds to a life that is offensive to God. Conventional wisdom seeks refuge in not doing anything wrong, but such shallow thinking will not stand the scrutiny of divine judgment.

- The man who received one talent was condemned. He was not condemned because he gambled away his money or spent it in riotous living. He was condemned because he did nothing (Matt. 25:24 - 30).
- The man who received the mina was also condemned for the same reason. He received money from his master and did nothing with it (Lk. 19:11 - 27).
- More than once Jesus condemned fig trees. Once in a parable (Lk. 13:6 - 8), and another time when he sought something to eat (Mk. 11:12 - 21). These fig trees were not condemned because they produced thorns or poison ivy. They were condemned because they produced nothing.
- On the night before Calvary Jesus told His disciples that He was the True Vine and His Father was the Gardener. The Gardener cuts off every branch that does not bear fruit (John 15:1, 2). This is so obvious that it hardly deserves comment. Dead branches that produced no fruit are destined to be burned.
- James reminds us that the demons believe and tremble (Ja. 2:19). They know more about Christ than we do and they believe that He means what He says, and says what He means. Since they do nothing about it, however, they are destined for the lake of fire and brimstone.
- James continues that faith without works is like a body without a spirit (Ja. 2:26). What value would it be to marry a corpse, or hire a cadaver to work in your garden? Cemeteries are filled with people who haven’t done anything wrong lately. They haven’t done anything right either. In fact, they haven’t done anything.

The poet said it like this:

He lost no hard fights in defence of the right  
He never did bleed with his back to the wall  
He never fell faint in his climb to the light  
He simply did nothing at all

So God will pardon your blunders, my friend  
And regret with pity your fall,  
But the one big sin that surely means hell  
Is to simply do nothing at all.

The cure for this common malady is Christ in you the hope of glory (Col. 1:27). Jesus did not come into the world to do nothing. He was on a divine mission for God. When you invite Jesus into your heart He will continue His divine mission through you. Philippians 2:13 specifies two ways God works in the believer. First, He produces the “will”, and secondly He empowers us to “act”. Both the desire and the ability are of divine origin. Since God is Omniscient, His will in our lives is always on track and relevant. Since He is all powerful, His energy in us is as tireless and perennial as a river.

Please invite Jesus Christ into your heart so that you will not be condemned for the sin of doing nothing!