

Some members of the Lord's church do not recognize the domino effect of their actions. "What is the big deal of missing one worship service to go to a ball game?" This event is not an isolated occurrence. It has repercussions. Someone will ask you about your absence, and you will be tempted to lie. Your child will learn that worshipping God is not as important as recreation. The first time you forsake will make it easier to skip the next time and the one after that. Soon attendance will become an unusual thing in your life instead of the normal one.

There are some saints who have never taught a Bible class although they have been Christians for over 30 years. The first time someone asked them to teach they said no. They felt they were not ready. That refusal made the second refusal easier. When the members put out a survey asking what you were willing to do, you never agreed to teach a class. 30 years and you are still not ready. Eventually brethren will stop asking.

Have you ever invited a member of the church to come to your house for a meal? Each time you do not it makes it easier to never do it. Did you ever go to a Gospel meeting in your congregation or another? When you don't the habit gets formed that makes it natural to not go. Did you ever compliment the preacher for a sermon or a song leader for his selection? It gets easy to let someone else do it when you never get started.

You see, decisions are not isolated things. They become habits. They influence the next decision. They have consequences. Soon the habit becomes your character. Will it be one that grows stronger day after day? Will each victory lead to another one? Or will each decision make you weaker and more likely to sin the next day. No event stands alone. *Ron Roberts*

Mooresville church of Christ

720 N. Indianapolis Road

Mooresville, IN 46158

July 2, 2017

Assemblies

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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Announcements

This month has a fifth Sunday. We usually have a different speaker for the evening service. Think about who you would like to hear.

If you did not get the final handout for the "Marriage on the Mount" series please take one from the back desk. Its heading is "Part 3 (Matt. 7)".

It was good to see the Davis family in the assembly last Sunday morning. This was their first time back since Dewey's surgery.

Look around for who is missing in the assembly this morning. Why not give them a call and let them know they were missed?

Members grow closer when they get together. Why not **invite** someone out or **accept an invitation** from some other member. This is not a work of the church but of individuals.

**God wants
your salvation.
What do you
want?**

They Never Stand Alone

One line in the hymn *“Yield Not To Temptation”* reads *“Each victory will help you some other to win.”* This is a valuable lesson. Doing the right thing helps us to do more right things later. Each victory over temptation strengthens us to defeat the next one and the one after that. One brother felt Job’s trials came to him beginning with lesser losses (cattle and donkeys) to strengthen him to deal with the greater ones (children, wife’s support, and respect from friends). Each righteous reaction Job made strengthened him for the next righteous reaction.

The point we need to see is that we are not living in isolation. One decision does not stand alone. Each sin connects to other sins. When we give in to one temptation it makes us more susceptible to the next one and the one after that.

Let’s say a Christian is looking at pornography on his computer. We recognize it is wrong, but is it an isolated matter? While he is looking he is not reading his Bible. He is not praying. He is not wanting to have other Christians around. His lusts may lead to more web pages with more provocative photographs. His resistance grows weaker to sexual advances. Soon he may commit fornication, lose his wife, family, and the church. His soul will be lost unless he repents. All because of what he spent one time doing on his computer.

David illustrates the situation for us in 2 Samuel 11. The text begins by telling us David was at home when kings go to battle. He sent Joab instead (vs. 1). David was not doing what he should have been doing. This situation led to another. It was not a separate action.

This failure put him in the position to be tempted. He saw a beautiful woman bathing from his rooftop (vs. 2). David did not resist the temptation. He did not become stronger by his response. In 1 Samuel 30 David’s town was attacked while David and his men were away. Their families were taken captive. The men were greatly distressed and even thought about stoning David in their despair. Verse 6 tells us,

“David encouraged himself in the Lord his God.” He made himself stronger by his reaction at that time. But here, with Bathsheba, he yielded to the temptation and became more likely to commit more sins.

He did not stop at looking at her, but he also enquired about her (vs. 3). When He learned she was married he did not feel shame nor retreat from his desire. David had wives of his own. He did not need to take this one wife of Uriah’s.

David sent for Bathsheba and they committed adultery (vs. 4). He likely looked upon this as an isolated event. He committed the sin and then she went back home. No one would ever know. It would never happen again. But the event came back to haunt him.

Bathsheba sent word to David that she was expecting a child (vs. 5). Now the sin he looked upon as an isolated event became an integrated portion of his life. It was an event that had consequences and would lead to other events. Rather than handling the matter properly David did more wrong things. The first error in judgment led to the sin of lust, the sin of adultery, and this was followed by the sin of deception.

David sent for Uriah (vs. 6). He hoped to cover up his sin by having Uriah spend the night with his own wife and conclude that the baby she was carrying was his own. But Uriah was a soldier who was bound by his duty (unlike his king). He refused to spend time with his wife while his comrades were still in battle. He resisted any urge to go home even when David got him drunk (vs. 7-13).

Finally, David sent Uriah back to the battlefield carrying orders for Joab to have him killed in battle (vs. 14-15). David knew this trustworthy soldier whom he cheated on, lied to, got drunk, and now arranged to kill; would not peek at the orders sent for Joab’s eyes.

Uriah was killed, David married Bathsheba, and the Lord was displeased (vs. 17, 27). In the following chapter Nathan came with the parable of the ewe lamb and the prophesy of David’s difficult future for having sinned against the Lord.