

February 9, 2025

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Exodus 32:1-14

Key Takeaways:

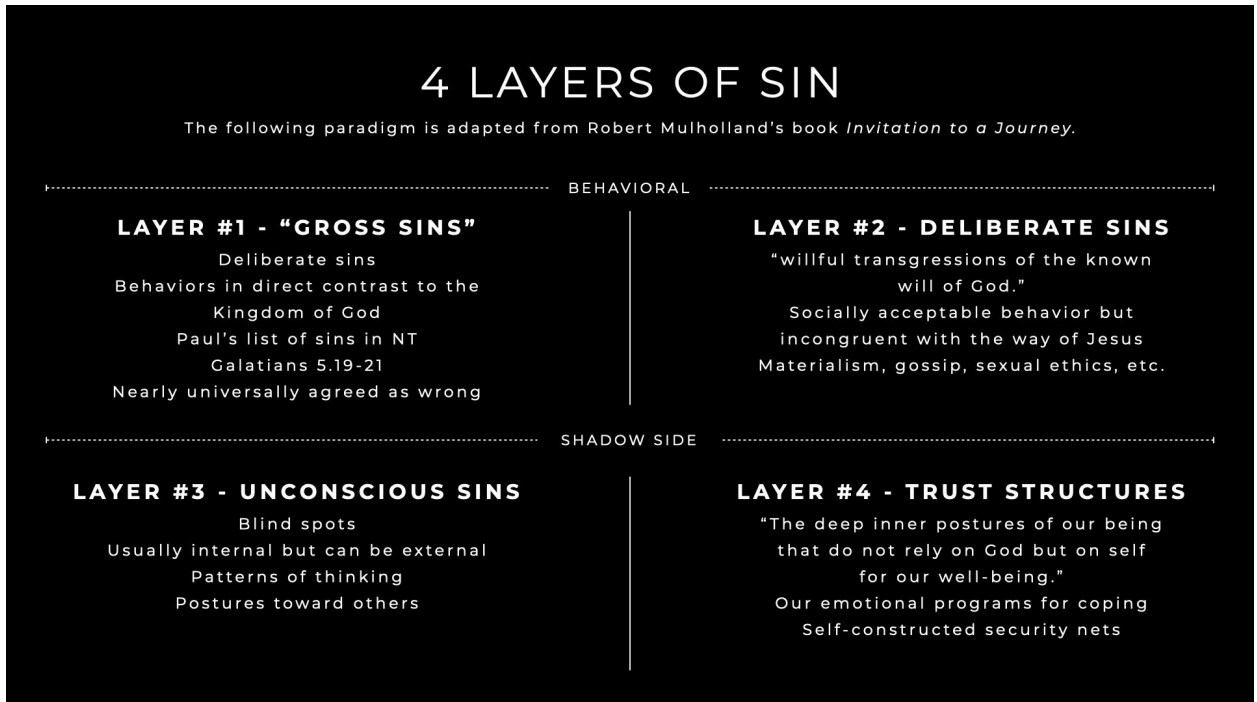
- Sin exchanges the presence of God for something lesser. We settle for lesser things when God offers us something far greater. We are far too easily pleased.
- God is not distant or unconcerned - He is devastated, grieved, jealous in the presence of idolatry - He feels the fracture of sin viscerally.
- We have vacated the idea of objective wrong, believing that we are the arbiters of our own story. If we can't name sin as sin - if we can't name the thing that is wrong, we have no way of changing.
- Sin masquerades as life, but it enslaves us to death. It will always overpromise and underdeliver, and it slowly erodes our souls.
- Every sin/fracture requires substitution - someone has to absorb it. Moses offered his life on behalf of the people. Jesus is the greater Moses; He takes on our pain and brokenness, which ultimately cost Him his life.

Possible Icebreaker: is there something you once thought you really wanted, but after getting it, realized it wasn't as satisfying as you'd hoped?

Prompts for Discussion:

1. Revisit the passage (**Exodus 32:1-14**) as a group, and invite someone to read it out aloud. What initially stands out to you from this passage? What does this passage reveal about God's character and heart for His people?
2. Why do you think the Israelites so quickly turned to creating an idol and to revelry when Moses was delayed in returning?
3. Kevin compared the Israelites' act of idolatrous worship and revelry to the act of a partner committing adultery on their wedding night, or on their honeymoon. What do you notice about God's response to the Israelites' sin in this passage? How does this challenge or deepen your understanding of who God is, and the way God responds to sin and brokenness?

4. Kevin shared that we can often have a flat view of sin. He also said that “sin masquerades as life, but it enslaves us to death.” How does the chart below challenge or deepen your understanding of sin? What are some practical ways that you can begin to recognize and address the deeper trust structures in our lives? Could there be a deeper ache and longing for God that God is revealing to you?



5. How does Moses' role as mediator help us better understand Jesus' role in our lives? What stands out to you Moses' pleading with the Lord in **Exodus 32:11-14**?
6. Revisit the following two verses on confession, reading them aloud as a group (**1 John 1:9** and **James 5:16**). What makes confession challenging for you? Is there anything that hinders you from drawing near to the Lord through confession? What might be hindering you from confessing to one another?

Take Home Challenge:

In the beginning of this week's sermon, Kevin shared the story of a fisherman who settled for catching and bringing home a smaller fish because his pan was too small for the bigger ones. How might you be settling for "too small a pan?" Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal a specific area in your life where you may be settling for less and enslaved by sin, rather than experiencing the life to the full that Jesus has on offer (John 10:10). Spend some time confessing this to the Lord, and consider, too, what it might look like to share with a fellow believer who can walk alongside you and pray for you. Ask Him for the wisdom and discernment to choose the better things that God has on offer, rather than pursuing or returning back to the lesser things.