

Study Guide for May 4th, 2003. Series: Distinguishing Marks of a Disciple - Lk. 17:1-3a: VIGILANCE.

Introduction: When was the last time you felt you had to be **on guard**? What danger were you facing?

I. SIN is inevitable -- But the agents of causing sin are still RESPONSIBLE. (Luke 17:1)

A. Jesus warns his disciples (**WOE!**) that there are terrible consequences for causing others to sin. **Cause to sin** is the Greek term *scandal*. Originally, the noun referred to the snare or trigger of a trap. Consider some of the ways we can cause others to sin as mentioned in the following verses.

1) Matt. 5:27-30: 2) Rom. 16:17-18: 3) I Cor. 8:9-13 & Rom. 14:13:

B. "No one sins in private--every sin effects others." Comment on how you have seen this truth.

C. Positively, every act of righteousness will be rewarded. Comment on Mt. 25:34-40 in this light.

II. SIN will be judged -- And the consequences are ETERNAL. (Luke 17:2)

A. Fill in the blanks: "It would be _____ for him to be _____ into the sea with a _____ tied around his _____ than for him to cause one of these _____ to sin."

B. To what could a horrible death be preferable? What does this imply about the life to come?

C. What do the following passages teach about the judgment **believers** will face?

1) John 5:24: 2) Rom. 14:10-12: 3) II Cor. 5:9-10

D. What has motivated you to turn from sin to righteousness? How do these truths impact you now?

III. SIN is deadly to all -- But some are more vulnerable than others.

A. Matthew records this teaching of Jesus in an expanded context (Matt. 18:5-14). Taken together, who do you think Jesus is referring to when he speaks of **these little ones**?

B. What can you conclude about God's character and priorities if he places such value on them?

C. Who are the **little ones** we need to be vigilant **not** to cause to sin?

IV. SIN can be avoided -- We must guard against it. (Luke 17:3a)

A. What do the following passages teach us to do to guard against sin?

1) I Cor. 10:11-13:

2) James 1:13-15, 5:16:

3) I John 1:5 - 2:2:

B. How, specifically, do you need to exercise **VIGILANCE** in not causing little ones to sin?