

THE ORIGIN OF PROBLEMS



GET TO THE ROOT
OF THE PROBLEM!

JORGE TADEU

Spanish - Russian - Portuguese - Brazilian - **English**

THE ORIGIN OF PROBLEMS

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1- INTRODUCTION

Why are people afflicted with problems?

Why do problems come knocking at our door?

James 1:17

“Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.”

The first thing that I want to share with you is the following: **“GOD IS NOT THE CAUSE OF ANYONE’S PROBLEMS!”**

The Bible says that all good things, meaning all of the wonderful gifts that we receive, come from God, the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

GOD DOES NOT CHANGE!

If God is a good God and if He is love, then He can only give us good things.

GOD DOESN'T GIVE US PROBLEMS BECAUSE HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY TO GIVE!

John 10:10

“The thief (devil) comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

This means that the devil is the cause of people's problems. Some people say: *“Mr. so and so seems like such a good person, I'm sure that he wouldn't even hurt a fly, yet somehow he has so many problems in his life.”*

Why is that? Let me tell you why.

This happens when someone opens the doors of their heart to the devil at some point in their lives.

Proverbs 26:2

“Like a sparrow in its flitting, like a swallow in its flying, so a curse without cause does not alight.”

The Bible says that no evil comes our way without a cause.

No harm comes our way simply by chance. Everything that happens, happens for a reason.

Nothing happens by chance.

Proverbs 26:2

“...so a curse without cause does not alight”

Let's take a look at the Bible in order to find out about what the main causes for problems to arise in our lives may be.

THE MAIN CAUSES FOR OUR PROBLEMS are:

1) Being involved in IDOLATRY:

This means paying homage to statues, saints, family members and to your loved ones who have passed away.

Making requests to God through Saints instead of through Jesus Christ, who is the only legal intermediary between God and Man.

2) Being involved in SORCERY, WITCHCRAFT, with the OCCULT, etc.

3) YOKE and MANIPULATION

Getting people to do things which are against their will.

4) Pointing FINGERS at OTHERS

5) SOWING DIVISION

In the church,
Creating a group which is set apart from the church
and causing rebellions.

6) Being involved in FIGHTS and ARGUMENTS**7) NOT FORGIVING**

Others and harbouring a feeling of resentment
against those who have offended us.

8) Having UNHEALTHY FRIENDSHIPS**9) FEARING that something BAD will happen in your life****10) Using your TONGUE WRONGFULLY**

To speak words of death,
Words of sickness,
Words of weakness,
Words of poverty, etc.

2- INVOLVEMENT with IDOLATRY

The first reason why people suffer is **IDOLATRY.**

What is IDOLATRY?

Idolatry is making religious IMAGES of saints such as the Virgin Mary, etc.

Idolatry is making requests to God through these images. Idolatry is making promises to saints and expecting God to answer our prayers as a result of this. Idolatry is paying homage to religious imagery, saints etc...It means allowing those images or saints to be in the honourable position that rightfully belongs to God.

God hates idolatry and those who practise it upset Him.

Exodus 20:4-5

“You shall not make for yourself an IDOL in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the SIN of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who HATE ME.”

The Bible says: “You shall not make for yourself idols in the form of anything in heaven...”

So, here the Bible is telling us not to make images of God, Jesus and of the Saints.

“...nor the earth beneath...” Here we can see that it refers to everything that exists on Earth. As a result, we shouldn't make images of Buddha, animals, people or of the saints.

“... You shall not bow down to them or worship them...” God says this is bad and that the children of those who do such things will suffer a curse which will go on until the third and fourth generation.

When this is said in church, some people say:

“...You know Pastor, I have statues and images in my house but I don't worship them. I worship the Lord. The only reason why I keep them at home is to remind me of God. I think there is no harm in that.”

You know what I tell these people?

“Keep your opinions to yourself. God says that that is wrong so it doesn’t matter what people think. God tells us not to do such things.”

Now, if you say that there is no harm in having these statues and images, then you can also commit adultery, murder or robbery.

WHY?

Because if we can disobey the first of the Ten Commandments (Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image...) then we can also disobey the rest of them (thou shalt not kill, steal, etc)

Unfortunately, a lot of people commit idolatry without understanding these principles. That is why a lot of people are suffering.

GOD HATES IDOLATRY.

Evil spirits are lodged in all of these statues and images and in any other kind of paraphernalia related to saints.

However because people don’t see them, they tend to pray and ask God for things and to kneel down in their presence. In God’s eyes this is worse than committing adultery.

The solution to this is: THROW AWAY all these statues and images in the name of Jesus!

You might even have very valuable statues and images but my advice to you is: if you truly love Jesus and want to serve him with all your heart, **THROW THEM AWAY.**

Don't think of giving them to a friend, if these things are not fit for you then why would you give them to someone else?

Don't even think of selling them because someone is going to buy them and end up having the same problems you have had.

Your reward is serving the Lord.
That's what will afford you true blessings.

So throw away all these images and statues even if they have a lot of value to you because God hates them.

God has much more VALUE than all of them put together.

When I tell you to throw away the images you have, I'm referring to religious images and objects.

I'm not referring to sculptures and paintings which fall merely under the artistic category, obviously these are harmless and don't offend God..

The reason why I'm emphasizing this is because many people hear me preach and then say that they heard me saying something which I didn't actually say.

So it's always good to remember that we are reading Biblical passages. We are studying what God says, not what I say.

IDOLATRY is also making requests to God through saints, instead of through Jesus Christ who is the only legal mediator between Man who is a sinner and God who is holy.

IDOLATRY is making requests to saints such as the Virgin Mary etc. and expecting God to answer our prayers through them.

God hates idolatry because He only appointed one representative here on earth – Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 2:5

“For there is one God and one mediator (intermediate) between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

Acts 4:12

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

Hebrews 6:15

“And because of this He is MEDIATOR (intermediate) of a new testament (agreement between God and sinful men) so that...the ones that are called (Christians, God’s children)

Trying to reach God through saints is ILLEGAL.

Trying to reach God through the Virgin Mary is ILLEGAL.

You can think whatever you like, but God doesn’t change and He says that the only way, THE ONLY way is Jesus.

God says that no one, NO ONE can reach God if not through Jesus Christ.

So stop making requests to saints and start making requests to God the Father through Jesus Christ.

IDOLATRY is not only paying homage to saints but to PEOPLE as well.

There are people who idolise their children.

There are people who idolise football players.

There are people who idolise rock bands

There is no harm in enjoying football, music etc...But when you allow these things to fill a void in your heart which should only be filled by God you become guilty of committing idolatry.

**The first of the Ten Commandments is:
“Love God above anything else.”**

It’s obvious that we should honour those who deserve honour.

Even Jesus said: *“Give Ceaser what belongs to Ceaser and God what belongs to God.”*

If you do anything for someone that you don’t normally do for anyone else, INCLUDING God then you are putting that person above God in your life. This means that you are idolizing that person and by doing so you are giving them a place in your life which is only fit for God.

Idolatry is making SACRIFICES.

Many people “make sacrifices” for the love of Jesus, but the truth is that Jesus is the one who was sacrificed on the Cross because of His love for us.

Making sacrifices such as walking for miles and miles, going up the stairs of the church on your knees, etc. displeases God.

I Corinthians 10:1-20

“... flee from idolatry (...)

Do I mean then that a sacrifice offered to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons (...)

Someone used to tell me – *“But you know pastor, we don’t worship images. We worship God, and we only use the images to get to God.”*

I answered – *“But God says that you shouldn’t do that.”*

Then he replied – *“Oh but I think that there is no harm in doing that because...”*

But what does God think?

God says this is idolatry!

Idolatry is a sin. Jesus said:

Revelation 22: 13-15

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.

Outside are the dogs, those who practise magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practises falsehood.”

People who commit idolatry and who practise witchcraft cannot enter the Kingdom of God.

Once there was a woman who was having problems and she came to me asking for help. She was a lawyer and she asked me if she could have a pastoral consultation with me at church.

She started by saying that she was catholic and that she was a very religious person who believed in God. She said: *“I’m catholic and I even have a niche at home and a candle dedicated to the Virgin Mary. So I don’t know why I’m having so many problems. It seems like the more I pray to God, the more problems I have!”*

This woman believed in God, she was sincere but she was sincerely mistaken, as she was doing something that God forbids.

Then I explained the situation to her calmly by asking: *“Do you believe in the ten commandments?”*

She answered: - *“Oh! But of course I do.”*

To which I replied – *“So take a look at what they say.”*
I opened my Bible in **Exodus 20.**

She started reading it: - *“Oh, I can’t believe it, this is impossible! This Bible can’t be right! How can this be?!”*

I went to fetch another Bible for her to read and she said: *“Oh! But it says the same thing...it can't be, no one ever taught me this. Are you telling me that my beliefs are wrong?”*

I said – *“I'm not telling you anything, God is!”*

She said – *“It can't be. Something must be wrong. Your Bible isn't the same as mine, I'm catholic and I'm sure my Bible doesn't say this!”*

So, I went to get a Bible which was signed by the Bishop of Lisbon and acknowledged by the Catholic Church and obviously it said the same thing.

She couldn't believe her eyes! *“Oh...but how is this possible? How could they lie to me for all of these years?”*

“What should I do now?” She asked.

You should repent and ask forgiveness for having committed idolatry. Throw away your idols made of paper, porcelain...throw away all of your niches, candles...

Deuteronomy 7:25

“The images (...) you are to burn in fire. Do not covet the silver gold on them...”

Stop praying before images.

Stop praying to Mary.

Stop placing money underneath images.

Instead, pray to God through Jesus Christ.

Give your life to Jesus Christ and be saved.

Matthew 10:37

“Anyone who loves his father or mother or MARY or the SAINTS more than they love Jesus, is not worthy of me”

This means that you should love God above anything or anyone else and always put Him first in your life.

However, it's not enough to simply throw away your images, you need to have the same feeling of horror that God does towards idolatry.

The reason for this is that idolatry comes from the heart and not from idols which are made of wood or of stone.

Now if you have made the decision to renounce idolatry then pray this prayer with me:

PRAYER

“Dear God, please forgive me for offending you and for doing what is wrong.

I didn't know any better Father, but today I recognise that I was committing idolatry and that I was upsetting you.

Today I understand that Jesus is the only way. He is the one I want to serve and no one else.

Jesus I give my heart to you today.
I give my life to you and I will serve
you from now on. Amen.”

3- INVOLVEMENT with the OCCULT

The second reason why people suffer is because they are, or were involved in **OCCULT**.

The OCCULT refers to the practise of witchcraft, sorcery, white magic, astrology, consulting spirits, palm reading, etc...

Some people get involved with the occult to find fame and power, or out of curiosity or even for a laugh.

Other people get involved in it because they want to see the future or to maintain contact with a family member who has passed away. Or because they think it will help them to succeed in their marriage, in their business etc...

There are also plenty of people who seek the powers of the occult in order to harm others: to get rid of the competition in their line of business, to harm a family member etc.

The occult is one of the things which most PROHIBITED things in the Bible.

Why?

Because it is getting directly involved with the forces of the devil. Many people do not realize that, but it is true.

Deuteronomy 18:9-14

“When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not learn (DO NOT LEARN) to imitate the detestable (DETESTABLE) ways of the nation there.

Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination (DIVINATION) or sorcery (those who read their luck, future etc) interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or cast spells, or who is medium or spiritist or who consults the dead (consulting the dead is prohibited by God).

Anyone who does these things is DETESTABLE to the Lord, and your God will DRIVE OUT those nations before you.

Many people suffer in life because of their involvement with the occult. The reason for this is that it's an abomination to God and as a result, God takes His protection away from all those who practise it.

Take a look at King Saul's sin:

I Chronicles 10:13-14

“Saul died because he was unfaithful to the Lord: he did not keep the word of the Lord and even consulted a medium for guidance”

Take a look at King Manasseh's sin:

II Kings 21:6

“... and divination, and consulted mediums and spirits. He did much EVIL in the eyes of the Lord, provoking him to anger.”

Isaiah 47:9-11

“Both of these will overtake you in a moment, on a single day: loss of children and widowhood. They will come upon you in full measure, in spite of your many SORCERIES and all your potent spell.

You have trusted in your wickedness...

Disaster will come upon you, and you will not know how to conjure it away. A calamity will fall upon you and you cannot ward off with a ransom; a catastrophe you cannot foresee will suddenly come upon you.”

Notice that the Bible says:

“...Disaster will come upon you, and you will not know how to conjure it away”...

“Because of your many SORCERIES”

Most of the families I've seen in my ministry have been involved in the occult.

Most of them have gone to witches, mediums, card readers and astrologers. They've also consulted the dead, attended spiritual centers, etc...

These people have many problems and they don't know why: *"Oh...Pastor I used to visit a spiritual center and they talked about God...so I think there is no harm in it at all"*

It's your word against God's. People who say this, don't know what God says in His word.

So now I ask you:

Why do you get sick all the time?

Why do you keep losing your job?

Why are you in debt and why do so many other bad things happen in your life?

The reason why people have so many problems in their lives is because they are, or have been involved with the occult.

Isaiah 47:11

"Disaster will come upon you, and you will not know how to conjure it away..."

People say – *"I don't know how this happened to me!"*

Here is the answer to their question:

“ ... A calamity will fall upon you that you cannot ward off with a ransom...”

There are problems in life which people desperately try to solve. They fight and struggle but nothing seems to work. This is what the Bible has to say about such cases:

Isaiah 47:11-12

“...disaster will come upon you, and you will not know how to conjure it away “

Keep on, then, with your magic spells and with your many sorceries, which you have laboured at since childhood. Perhaps you will succeed, perhaps you will cause terror.”

God is being sarcastic here.

“Go on, continue with your sorceries, continue reading your palm, consulting mediums, and astrologers, etc... and you'll see where it gets you.

Isaiah 47:13

“All the counsel you have received has only worn you out...”

There are people who go everywhere, consulting all sorts of charlatans and then finally when there is no one else to consult they think of turning to God.

Isaiah 47:13

“...let your astrologers come forward, those stargazers who make predictions month to month, let them save you from what is coming upon you.”

Once again God is using a sarcastic tone here by saying: *“Let them save you from what is coming upon you.”*

Someone once told me: *“You know what pastor, I went to places like that but I don’t believe in those things.”*

So I asked: *“If you don’t believe in them, why did you go?”*

They answered *“Oh, I only went out of curiosity.”*

Whether you went out of curiosity or not, isn’t the point. The simple fact that you went to the devil’s house contaminates you.

I know of a man who wasn’t able to eat properly for 23 years. His stomach was always swollen and he had many problems in life. After he gave his life to Jesus Christ he was healed and his problems went on to be solved.

One day I went to his house and he started telling me about the type of things that He and his family had gotten into before going to church.

He said that at first they lived a normal life and they were a happy family but one day a problem arose

and immediately they decided to go see a fortune teller. After that his life was never the same.

He began having one problem after the other and so when someone told him that there was a fortune teller who could help him, he went to see her but things only seemed to get worse.

After that he heard about a very famous witch and he went to see her as well.

Things went from bad to worse. He felt a strange and horrifying presence at home which brought a feeling of oppression upon everyone in his family.

Besides that, his family argued about everything and he contracted a severe stomach illness which made him unable to eat properly and gave him such strong stomach pains that it felt like someone was stabbing him in the stomach.

Someone might ask *“Why did all these things come upon this man?”*

All of a sudden he wasn't able to eat properly and he there was a feeling of oppression in his home.

How could that be? I'll tell you why. The Bible clearly states why...

The cause of many people's problems is their constant visits to sorcerers, to fortune tellers, to mediums, to astrologers, etc...

Fortunately, someone told him about Jesus Christ and invited him to visit our church. At the end of the meeting he gave his life to Jesus and asked the pastor to pray for all of his problems.

He was healed straight away and as time progressed his life took a turn for the better and everything went back to normal.

Jesus healed him and set him free from all that had been binding him.

As a result there wasn't enough food to satisfy his new found appetite and on that same night he got up three times to go and eat. Praise the Lord!!

I also remember a woman who spoke to me saying that she felt confused and lonely.

The young lady said that she was married and that she lived a normal, happy life when suddenly, SUDDENLY her husband died.

No one knew why. The doctors couldn't find any illness in him and there was no reason for his sudden death.

I went on to ask her a few questions so as to find out why this had happened because the Bible tells us that no curse comes without a cause.

No curse comes by chance.

Everything that happens to people happens for a reason. Nothing happens “just because...”

Proverbs 26:2

“...so a curse without cause does not alight”

I found out that, that family was deeply involved in witchcraft.

This is one of the most dangerous things you can do because in doing so you're wilfully inviting yourself into the devil's home.

Getting involved in these activities that God forbids, means that you're opening the doors of your life to the devil and therefore allowing him to do whatever he pleases.

Once someone asked me for help:

“My friend's wife is having a very difficult pregnancy and she's suffering a lot. She is hemorrhaging and

she's about to lose her baby. The couple has looked for help in various places but the situation is only getting worse. Pastor Tadeu, would you mind talking to them?"

I said

"I'll only talk to them if they want me to. Call them and tell them who I am and what I believe in and ask them if they're interested in receiving help from God."

After a couple of days my friend told me:

"I've talked to the couple and they said that they know that you're going to talk about the things of God and they're interested in getting help from you."

I went to their house with my friend. They were very depressed and the woman started crying while she explained the situation to me.

"I am losing a lot of blood; I went to the doctor and I did everything he told me to but I'm getting worse.

Now the doctor tells me that if things carry on like this, I'm going to lose my baby.

Most nights I get such horrible stomach pains that my husband can hardly sleep because I scream so much. It feels as if someone is stabbing me in the stomach."

While I was listening to her, I couldn't help but think:

"She has the symptoms of someone who has been involved in the occult. It's probably because of that the devil is now trying to kill her baby.

So I asked the couple this question:

“Have you ever been involved with the occult, with sorcery, in fortune telling, in consulting the dead, in consulting mediums, etc?”

They looked at each other as if they were wondering *“How does he know?”*

Then they told me:

“As a matter of fact one time when we had financial problems a friend of ours gave us the number of a sorcerer or of a wizard, I’m not really sure what he was...but nevertheless we paid him a visit.

While we were there he cut off a little bit of our hair so that he could conjure up a spell which entailed throwing human hair into the ocean.

The truth is that I’m not really sure what else he did with it. Since that didn’t work we went to another sorcerer who gave us some small bags containing bones which belonged to the cemetery. He told us to sew these bags onto our clothes.

We did that but still we saw no change. After that we contacted someone and he came to our house and burnt some incense. He also put some kind of powder in our bedroom.”

I heard everything they had to say and then I explained to them that in reality they had gotten involved with the devil. I opened the Bible and showed them what God says.

At first they could hardly believe that God condemns such practises in the Bible.

They said this to me: *“Everything that we did was done with the best of intentions and it was for God.”*

I explained to them that there are a lot of sincere people who are “truly mistaken.” I also said to them that when they asked people to cast those spells, they were asking them to do the devil’s work.

There a lot of people in the world who face the same kind of problem that this couple was facing. Then they also look for help in the same type of places, thinking that God is there.

But the Bible clearly states - without a doubt - that these ways belong to the devil.

This couple understood that what they had done was wrong and they repented of the things that they had done to upset God.

They gave their lives to Jesus and I cast away the devil's power in their lives.

Later on I found out that everything had turned out well. The lady had started sleeping well again and the pain and the hemorrhaging that she had once had, had stopped. The baby was born with no complications.

Do you feel like this lesson is for you?

Do you feel like only bad things happen to you?

Were you involved with the occult?

Have you ever gone to see someone who was involved in witchcraft?

Do you want to be set free?

Only God can set you free!

If so pray this prayer with me right now:

PRAYER FOR RENOUNCING THE POWERS OF THE OCCULT

“Dear Father, I admit that I was involved with the occult and I want to renounce everything that I did relating to it.

I renounce all the witchcraft, fortune telling, consulting of spirits, and everything else that I got involved with.

I repent from all these things because now I understand that they are an abomination to you.

Father please forgive me. I don't want anything to do with the devil. Amen."

If you have just prayed this prayer then I am going to cast out the power of the devil in your life so that you can be set FREE!

"Satan, I come against you in Jesus name to nullify all the power of witchcraft in this person's life and to annul all the pacts that you have in your power, in relation to all those who are reading this book and who have just renounced the occult.

I now set these people free in the name of Jesus so that they may be healed and saved forever by your power.

And now I praise you Jesus because you are real and you are giving orders to your angels for them to set these people free, wherever they may be.