

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK, SERIES

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ASKING FOR TROUBLE

Psalms 106:6-16

These verses express the care God had taken for Israel in bringing them out of the slavery of Egypt, and the apparent unthankfulness on their part for all He had done. Over and over they asked and God abundantly supplied. However they continued in sin and unthankfulness. Even though He granted their request, he sent leanness into their soul i.e. their soul's suffered want. These people were just asking for trouble, by the way they treated God in His goodness. Many people try to borrow trouble. Others ask for it. There is an old saying worth remembering: "Don't trouble-trouble until trouble troubles you."

I. We Ask For Trouble When We Run From The Lord.

The call came from God to Jonah, to go and preach to the people of Nineveh. The time was one of political revival in Israel. The Israelites viewed the Assyrians, with repulsiveness, hence Jonah shrank from a duty he felt would result in the salvation of a hostile city. As a result he fled to Tarshish. He was asking for trouble. He was running from God and duty. He boarded a ship that ran into a storm and was eventually cast overboard, being, swallowed by a great fish. What a predicament. This happens when we run from God. Those who do are only asking for trouble. Jonah remained in the belly of the fish for three days and nights. Finally, he was cast out and when told by God to go preach to Nineveh, he went and was successful. Read Luke 11:29-32.

Many today, are running from God:

The sinner who "waits" to obey the gospel, is running from God and is asking for trouble. The Christian who fails to step up to the duties of the Christian life is running from God. The parents who fail to teach their children, are running from duty and thus God. The spouse who fails to be the encouragement to their companion in living the Christian life is running from God. They are all asking for trouble.

II. We Ask For Trouble When We Pitch Our Tents Toward Sodom.

According to Genesis 13:11 Lot chose the Plain, for all the wrong reasons:

"...he chose the land without considering the character of the inhabitants, or what advantages or disadvantages it might afford him in spiritual things. This choice, as we shall see in the sequel, had nearly proved the ruin of his body, soul, and family." Clarke He was asking for trouble. Lot dwelt in Sodom Gen. 14:12. The men of Sodom were wicked men "who broke the established order of things, destroyed and confounded the

distinctions between right and wrong, who afflicted and tormented both themselves and others." Clarke

The men of this city, were "radically evil within, every affection and passion depraved and out of order, Lot seeks for happiness where it never can be found, in worldly honors and possessions, in sensual gratification's, the end of which are disappointment, affliction, vexation, and ruin" Clarke. He was asking for trouble.

Lot lingered in Sodom, Gen. 19:16 "And while he lingered..." he was reluctant to leave. Perhaps those he loved, perhaps his home of many years, but whatever the reason, We are asking for trouble when we become reluctant to leave sin and its evil environs. Pitching our tent morally or spiritually in this world is neither sane nor sensible. Becoming apart of its filth and evil is devastating. Jas. 1:27 "Ye adulterers and adulteresses know ye not that the friendship is enmity with God, whosoever is a friend of this world is an enemy of God."

Recently an article in the Houston, Texas Chronicle reported that movie director Oliver Stone was less than ecstatic upon hearing reports that some movie goers, upon viewing a vicious rape-and-torture scene, walked out of one of his movies. "I'm amazed that Americans would be so squeamish. What wimps" "How can you deny life? What we're going to get as a result of that is a lot of PG Jurassic Parks. We're going to live in a PG (bleeping) world." This man, along with others like him, parade a constant stream of filth before the American public under the guise of not denying life. In other words everything goes. If it happens, regardless of when or where, it ought to be shown to the world, they think.

What has happened to our world since the introduction of "R" rated (restricted) movies? From 1960-1990 youth suicide rate has increased from 3.6 to 11.3 per 100,000 youths. Violent crime increased from 16.1 to 75.8 incidents per 10,000 Americans. Divorce rate increased from 9.2 to 20.9 per 1000 married women. From 1972-1990 abortions increased from 12.9 percent of pregnancies to 24.6. From '60 to '90 children with single mothers increased from 8 percent to 22 percent of total births. Children on welfare from 3.5 to 11.9 percent. Births to unwed mothers from 5.3 to 28 percent.

This is only part of the contribution such films have made to our society. People are asking for trouble who view such garbage.

III. We Ask For Trouble When We Try And Hide Our Sin.

Prov.28:13 "He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy." Adam and Eve did this, Gen.3:8 "And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid

themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.” Hiding was an attempt to escape the further result of their sin. (the first was the shame). But no one can really hide from God. We only bring trouble on ourselves when we try. Achan, who stole from the spoils of Jerico, tried to hide his sin from God. For God to bless Israel, the sin had to be removed from the camp.

One by one the innocent are eliminated, until Achan comes forth. He is admonished by Joshua to make confession. He does, and confesses his sin against God. He had taken what belonged to God and hid it. He and his family are all stoned, and burned with fire.

David tried to hide his sin of adultery by committing murder. But his sin found him out. Note Psa. 32:1-5. Such behavior only resulted in trouble for David and his family. So today, when we try and hide our sins rather than confess them, we are only asking for trouble.

Jas. 5:16 “confess your faults one to another...”

1John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Hiding sin, only complicates the situation. “Be sure you sin will find you out.

IV. We Ask For Trouble When We Form An Unequal Yoke.

2Cor.6:14 “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?”

Unequal yoke means: “Another of a different sort” Vine, “to have fellowship with one who is not an equal” Thayer.

This passage sets forth a general principle of Christian conduct. Any kind of situation that would compromise the convictions of a child of God must be avoided. The principle set forth in this passage is to be applied to any and all home, business, and social relationships.

A Christian and non-Christian who are in business together would be “unequally yoked” if the non-Christian brought into the business anything that would tie the Christian to that which was not authorized by the scriptures. Should such happen then the Christian is under obligation to obey 1Cor.6:17 i. e. “come out from among them and be ye separate...” (One is asking for trouble who remains in such a relationship)

In any Scripturally authorized social event Christians may have a relationship with non-Christians unless and until the non-Christians introduce that which is not authorized by the Bible. Should this happen, then 2Cor.6:17 must be followed.

As long as a Christian can live with a non-Christian spouse and not be forced by the relationship itself to engage in that which is not authorized by the Scriptures, there is no “unequal yoke.” (1Cor 7) However, should the relationship cause the Christian violate what God has authorized him or her to do, the Christian must abide by v. 17.

It should be remembered that in any relationship in life, one who loves and serves the Lord, places themselves at a distinct disadvantage when placed in relationships with those who love not the Lord. They are asking for trouble.

V. Children Are Asking For Trouble, When They Fail To Obey Their Parents.

“Children obey your parents...” Eph.6:1

Prov. 4:1 “Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, and give attention to know understanding;”

Prov.13:1 “A wise son heeds his father’s instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.”

Godly parents have the best interest of their children at heart. They are concerned about their physical, financial, social, educational, and spiritual welfare. They are concerned about your friends, your time, your habits, and your hobbies, because they are concerned about you. They are more interested in being right than popular, more interested in what is good for you, than what you think is good for yourself. Children who have disobeyed their parents, have become slaves to tobacco, alcohol, drugs, and immoral living. Some have filled early graves, become moral disasters, spending a lifetime of regret and shame.

VI. We Ask For Trouble When We Leave The Father’s House.

There is no safety like the safety of home. In Christ we have all things new--2Cor. 5:17 “If any man be in Christ he is a new creature...”

In Christ we have all spiritual blessings--Eph. 1:3 “blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” In Christ we have obtained an inheritance Eph. 1:1 Being in Christ frees us from sin Acts 2:47 and grants us access to God through Jesus His Son 1Tim.2:5, our mediator.

To leave the church, causes us to only ask for trouble. Luke 15 gives us an insight to the dangers of leaving the father’s house: this young man left behind his father, his home, his security, his safety, his own well-being, and a sense of right and wrong. He journeyed to a far country: There he found a strange place, inhabited by strange people who lived a lifestyle with which he was unfamiliar. A lifestyle dominated by money, sin, excess, unlawful desire and drudgery. He joined himself to a citizen of the country, (an unequal yoke), feeding swine he gladly would have eaten as they were. No man knew the prodigal. He was nothing to them. Just another face in the crowd, another hired hand. This young boy, asked for trouble and he got it. When we leave the safety of the “fold” the protection of the “father’s house,” we are asking for trouble.

A railroad man who lay dying said to a friend, “You are gripping the hand of the greatest failure in the world.” His friend said, “No, don’t say that. You have built a great railroad empire, you have made a fortune, and employed hundreds of men.” “yes, but I have left Christ out of my life, and anyone who does that is a failure.”

Years ago an Indian was found starving to death. They found some pension checks in his pocket but they were of no use to him because he did not use them.

Those who leave the church, are asking for trouble. They have pension checks that will never be cashed, promises that will never be claimed, riches that will never be enjoyed. What a shame. They face the trouble of dying without Christ and hope. Of a family that has been robbed of a Christian influence. Of other sinners that could have been won to the truth, but weren't.

Are you asking for trouble today?