

THE DANGER OF COMPROMISE

Introduction:

1. The first chapter of Judges deals with Israel's work in conquering the land of Canaan.
2. Our last lesson noticed how God was using them as a means to carry out His justice.
3. We also considered the need for unity and courage in doing God's work.
4. Though Israel began their time in Canaan with obedience to God in fighting against their enemies, in time they began to grow weak in their efforts.
5. Soon, they began to compromise in their obedience to God's instructions.
6. Ultimately, this led to their downfall...

I. The Compromise of Weakness (1:19, 34-36)

- A. The tribe of Judah failed to complete their task.
 1. This was in spite of the courageous example of Othniel.
 2. This was in spite of the faithful example of Caleb.
 3. This was in spite of the early success of the tribe of Judah.
- B. The reason for their failure was their weakness of faith.
 1. Verse 19 does not teach that God could not defeat the iron chariots of those who dwelt in the valley.
 2. Instead, it teaches that the fear and doubt of the tribe of Judah caused them to give up the fight when they saw the iron chariots.
 3. Consider the story of Peter walking on the water as an illustration of what happened here (cf. Matthew 14:30-31).
 4. Fear always leads to failure (2 Timothy 1:7).
- C. The children of Dan were weaker than the children of Judah!
 1. They were forced by the Amorites to dwell in the mountains.
 2. Only the house of Joseph subdued them enough to make them tributaries – under tribute to the Israelites.
- D. There are important lessons to learn from the failures of Israel.
 1. Faith in God will give us victory over any enemy.
 2. Fear and doubt will cause us to give up the fight and settle for a compromise with our enemies.
 3. God is not glorified when His children give up and give in to their enemies.

II. The Compromise of Sympathy (1:21-27)

- A. Even though the Israelites had the ability to drive out the inhabitants of the land, they chose to allow some of them to stay.
- B. They began to condone what God had condemned.
 1. The children of Benjamin began to accept the Jebusites.
 2. Even though the tribe of Judah had already taken Jerusalem, the tribe of Benjamin did not hold on to it (cf. 1:8).
 3. The tribe of Manasseh began to accept the Canaanites.
- C. There is a grave danger in becoming sympathetic toward sin.
 1. Ephesians 5:11 – no fellowship with darkness
 2. Romans 16:17 – mark and avoid divisive ones
 3. 1 Corinthians 5:9-11 – no company with sinners
 4. 1 Corinthians 15:33 – evil corrupts the good (5:6; 2 Pet. 2:18-22)

Judges 1:21 – 2:6

- III. The Compromise of Weariness (1:28-33)
- A. In this passage, the failure of the tribes came when they were strong.
 - B. In spite of their strength, the Israelites chose to make their enemies pay tribute to them instead of driving them out of the land.
 - 1. This was a compromise with what God had commanded.
 - 2. This was a compromise with the idolatrous Canaanites.
 - 3. This was a compromise with the people of Israel.
 - C. It seems that even though Israel was strong, they had grown tired of fighting.
 - D. If we are not careful, we may fall into the same condition of compromise.
 - 1. 2 Timothy 4:10 – Consider Demas
 - 2. Galatians 6:9 – Be not weary in doing good
 - 3. Malachi 1:13-14 – Be not weary in serving God
 - 4. Hebrews 12:1-3 – Follow the example of Jesus

Conclusion: Judges 2:1-6

- 1. The consequences of compromise are serious and severe.
- 2. 2:2 – Disobedience
- 3. 2:3 – Separation from God
- 4. 2:3 – Punishment from enemies
- 5. 2:3 – Danger of greater compromise
- 6. 2:4 – Sorrow and weeping