

Today's Compromises Reap Tomorrow's Woes

Scripture

“And when Joshua had dismissed the people, the children of Israel went each to his own inheritance to possess the land. So the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD which He had done for Israel. Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died [when he was] one hundred and ten years old. And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash. When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel. Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals; and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from [among] the gods of the people who [were] all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger. They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. Wherever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for calamity, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were greatly distressed.” (Judges 2:6-15 NKJV)



Commentary

If you read the last chapter of Joshua, you will find the people of God making a promise to God that they will serve Him and put away all their Idols. However, in Judges beginning in verse 19 of chapter one you will read one account after another where the tribes of Israel did not completely drive out the inhabitants of the land. Instead they allowed them to remain among the people as an evil influence. This heartbreaking failure cost them greatly.

We read above that the next generation following Joshua forsook the Lord. In fact, it says they did not even know the Lord or what He had done. This is an amazing statement if you think about it. One generation removed and the nation was basically pagan. How can this be?

It appears that Joshua's generation followed the Lord in some fashion even though they had compromised. However, their compromise reaped a generation of unbelievers.

This is not too hard to understand when you look at the things that people struggle with. Family devotions and teaching the children by example top that list of struggles. When you allow sinful or even amoral things to distract you, sin easily besets you. The lie is, I can handle these distractions and still

serve the Lord. You might after a fashion, but what about your children? Why do you expect them to carry on in the faith if you have not modeled or taught them the things of God?

I want to encourage you to remove the idols from your life. An idol is anything that keeps you from obeying God. Drive them out today while time remains to influence the next generation.

Prayer

Father, reveal to us every sin and every distraction that we might remove them from our lives. Forgive us our failures and empower us by your Holy Spirit to walk circumspectly before you. Save our children from the evils of our day, amen.