



1 Corinthians 10:5-6_Overthrown in the Wilderness

February 16, 2014

Text: 1 Corinthians 10:5-6

A quick review of **The Point** from last week:

- By framing Israel's escape from Egypt and subsequent provision in terms of activity of **Christ**, he's preparing the Corinthian church to see again, from a different angle, the love of the Lord and how worthy He is of the sacrifice of **holiness**.
- He's essentially saying to Corinth that, "the same **Jesus** who blesses you blessed our fathers. Yet they still rebelled; do not do likewise!"
- Here is a wonderful Scripture I TOTALLY missed last week that would have helped solidify the point:
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Jude 1:5 ESV Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

- Think about the goodness of **Christ** towards Israel! From the escape from Egypt He taught them about His coming salvation (baptism in the Red Sea, the Lord's Supper in the wilderness). **Even then Christ was leading, providing, protecting, teaching, loving, forgiving, blessing, delivering, guiding, covering, and fighting for His children!!!!**
- But at the same time, it's sobering to think about the wrath of the Lamb, who according to the Lord's brother Jude, "destroyed those who did not believe."

Today:

- Verses 5-10 were meant to point the Corinthians back to some "examples" (v5,11) of idolatrous behaviors on the part of God's people as a reminder of what NOT to do.
 - A quick note on sequence: the Old Testament examples (verses 5-10) aren't given in the order they happened. Instead of trying to re-sequence them we'll just look at them in the order the Holy Spirit laid out through Paul.
- I'd like to look at verse 5 today, and as we do so please keep verse 6 in mind: "*1Co 10:6 ESV Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.*"
- In other words, the purpose is not to condemn, but to **exhort**...to encourage right hearts, motives, and actions towards Christ...to learn from the past.
- And please keep in mind the overall themes of chapters 8-10: self-sacrifice (9:12, 15), knowledge applied in love (8:1), not causing a brother to stumble (8:11-13), and a relentless focus on the mission of Christ (9:24-27).

"...God was not pleased"

1. But before we begin, how many of you truly want to **please** God? No....I mean REALLY REALLY want to please Him?
2. We are about to spend some time looking at the examples given by the Holy Spirit to His church at Corinth where God wasn't pleased. Don't get down. Don't become discouraged. Use these examples as motivators to open your Bible, fall on your knees, repent as necessary, and determine in your mind to make pleasing Christ your top priority!
3. I love the way Paul wrote it to saints at Thessalonica:
 - *1Th 4:1-7 ESV Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more*

and more. (2) For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. (3) For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; (4) that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, (5) not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; (6) that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. (7) For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.

4. And to Colossae:

- *Col 1:9-14 ESV And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, (10) so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. (11) May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, (12) giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. (13) He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, (14) in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

5. May we follow the example of Christ, walking in **obedience, faith, generosity**, and knowledge of His **will!**

- *John 8:29 ESV And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are **pleasing** to him."*
- *Heb 11:6 ESV And without faith it is impossible to **please** him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*
- *Heb 13:16 ESV Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are **pleasing** to God.*
- *1Jn 3:21-22 ESV Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; (22) and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what **pleases** him.*

"...for they were overthrown in the wilderness"

- Let's do a little reading: Numbers 13:1-14:45
- Paul is warning the Corinthians about idolatry by referencing this historic and massive disobedience by the people Israel...one that so angered the Lord that the generation that came out of Egypt died in the wilderness! (Except Caleb and Joshua...and it happened just as God said, Num 26:64-65.)
- There are many lessons we can learn from these most serious examples. Here are just a few:
 1. Idolatry (Paul's context in 1 Cor 10:1-22) is a serious and deceitful sin.
 - a. The people of Israel didn't worship an actual physical idol in this case; they were overcome by **fear** and thoughts of **comfort** and security in Egypt.
 - b. Idolatry can be defined as "placing anything or anyone above God."
 - c. So then anything lifted up above Christ and His commands can in a sense be idolatrous, and therefore be "worshipped" by disobeying our Lord.
 - d. Like its first cousin, Pride, idolatry is a most devious of sins, always lurking close by. It isn't always overt. It can be present even during "good" moments. It's a slick one!
 - e. God's first Commandment, "*You shall have no other God's before me,*" and it's New Testament reaffirmation, "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and will all your soul, and with all your mind,*" confirms both God's hatred of idolatry and its most powerful remedy: **love** for God! (Ex 20:3; Matt 22:37).

2. God's commands are not burdensome!
 - a. *1Jn 5:3-5 ESV For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (4) For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. (5) Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*
 - b. Had they followed God's instructions, into the Promised Land they would have gone! They would have won! They would have **OVERCOME** rather than being OVERTHROWN! But God's command seemed burdensome, scary, uncomfortable, and unreasonable to them.
 - c. **Saints, let us follow God's instructions for His glory! Our Promised Land isn't an earthy one...we seek a different country and have a better Promise! ☺**
 - d. *Heb 11:16 ESV But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.*
 - e. *Heb 8:6 ESV But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises.*
3. God is **Merciful!**
 - a. Moses interceded for the people and God listened (Num 14:11-20).
 - b. Instead of giving them what they deserved for their idolatrous disobedience, killing them all quickly (Num 14:12), the Lord let them live (albeit in the wilderness), bear children, and another generation, led by Joshua, inherited the Promise.
 - c. I'm SO glad I have not received what I deserved!!!!
 - d. Look again at Moses' prayer....

Num 14:18 ESV 'The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation.'

- e. **As we close, let us thank our merciful King for being "slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."**
- f. AND...let us thank Him for Christ Jesus, who....

by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. (Col 2:14-15 ESV)

4. Oh Lord, what great mercy You have shown us! What love! What forgiveness! For we....

*"...were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-- among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."** (Eph 2:1-7 ESV)*

Hallelujah and Amen!