

Light and Life

From Molehills to Mountains

We might think small departures from God’s pattern don’t really affect anything in the grand scheme of things. But history proves to us that it doesn’t take long for a spiritual molehill to become a mountain. Small issues can quickly devolve into large issues if they are not addressed. Lapses in judgment can become sin, and one sin can lead to another.

The case is made by the sin of David. King David – giant slayer, psalm writer, and man after God’s own heart; but also, a liar, adulterer, and murderer. How did this happen? Molehills were allowed to become mountains.

“One evening David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king’s house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was beautiful to behold. So, David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said... ‘Is this not the wife of Uriah?’ Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her” (II Sam. 11:2-4).

As a result of this adultery, Bathsheba conceived a son. David hastily arranged for Uriah to come home from war and spend time with his wife to attempt to deceitfully cover up his sin. Uriah thought it unfair that he should enjoy the company of his wife as his brothers-in-arms were suffering away from home, so David arranged for Uriah to die in battle to escape the consequences of his sin. In the span of one short chapter (II Sam 11), Israel’s greatest King had committed adultery and lied and killed to conceal it. Those are some big mountains!

The molehill? “It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle... but David remained at Jerusalem” (II Sam 11:1). While not a sin itself, David’s poor judgment set him up for failure. We must make sure to squash the molehills in our lives!

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

The Joy of Leaving

“Since I’ve given up my faith, I’m now happy and at peace.” This is a common statement we hear from those who walk away from the Lord. And I do not doubt that one who leaves the Lord feels happy. The question is, why?

One reason lies in the basic issue we all face in serving the Lord: will I deny self to please Him or will I deny Him to please self (Lu 9:23-26)? I don’t often feel happy when I must deny self; it’s hard and frustrating at times. If I remove that fight from my life by removing Jesus, then I no longer grapple with giving up what pleases me for what pleases Him. I can be happy – in one sense.

But this gets to the basic issue of what happiness is about. One who has quit the Lord feels happy – but it’s a happiness in the moment, not a happiness in a future hope. It’s a peace that comes from no longer fighting the difficulty of self-denial, not a peace found in forgiveness and eternal rest. The road of giving up the Lord comes at a cost. It trades a living hope for momentary happiness.

Don’t buy into the passing pleasure angle here. The world says we have to be happy, but it’s a very narrow consideration. Recall the choice made by Moses (He 11:24-25). Moses could have been happy by enjoying the pleasures of sin, but he knew these were fleeting and temporary. Instead, he chose to look beyond the here and now to the reward that would later come (v. 26).

Therein lies the choice for all of us. You can find a measure of pleasure and happiness by quitting the Lord. But you need to be aware which type of happiness you are banking your life on. The happiness found in Christ is not the momentary type, but that found in purpose, hope, and life. So, what kind of happiness are you willing to give your soul for? Is it worth it?

- Doy Moyer (edited for space)

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

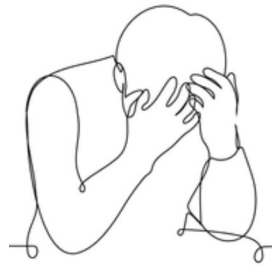
The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

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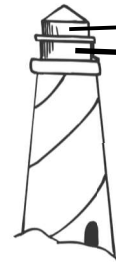
**A sin unrepented of
is another sin.**

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
Joel Heiligenthal
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
Tim Roberts
Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

Sick: G&K Fletcher, J&M Swim, J Marshall, S Shell, L&T Deen

Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis, V Carter

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

CONGRATULATIONS! – We share in the joy of Jantsen & Lucy Lynn (and the rest of the family) at the recent birth of Rayna Jayne Lynn!

SENTENCE SERMON – It's not enough to simply **preach** the gospel – we must also **live** the gospel!

Thus Says Fred

In his second epistle, John wrote, “If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not” (vs 10). Yet in his third letter, he condemned Diotrephes, who “loves to have the preeminence among them, [and] receives us not” (vs 9). Clearly, there is a time when rejecting brethren is necessary, and a time when it is wrong. So, what makes the difference?

In the first case, where John commanded brethren to reject some, the standard for that rejection was the doctrine of Christ (vs 9). Those who refused to walk in His teaching were to be rejected (no spiritual fellowship) – a true principle even today.

In the second case, John condemned Diotrephes because he rejected some brethren based on his own desire for preeminence (domination) – whether they were walking according to the doctrine of Christ or not. His measure was not the standard of the Word of God, but of his own opinion.

Today, it is important for Christians to know, and practice, the difference as well. Fellowship in a local church demands that we ‘draw the lines’ where God’s Word does – not any looser, and not any tighter. A “thus says the Lord” carries a lot of weight – a “thus says Fred”, not so much.

- *WKing*