

1/19/2024

**The Danger of Compromise**  
**Judges 2:1-23**

It has been said that liberty is always an unfinished business and compromise is the enemy of liberty.

\* How much more when we have been liberated from sin! #1787

We want to examine the dangers of compromise, which is laid out three movements: Judges 2:1-23

- I. The cost of compromise. vs. 1-5
- II. The constant progression of compromise. vs. 6-15
- III. The calloused heart of compromise. vs. 16-23

**I. The cost of compromise. vs. 1-5**

A. The reminder of their past deliverance from bondage by covenant. vs. 1

\* “Then the Angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: “I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, ‘I will never break My covenant with you.’”

1. The visitation of the Angel of the Lord was to remind them God’s faithfulness.

- a. The Angel of the LORD is a Christophany, and appearance of Jesus prior to the Incarnation. vs. 1a
  - 1) The Angel of the Lord appeared to Abraham with two other angels. Gen. 18
  - 2) The Angel of the Lord appeared to Joshua, telling him to take his shoes off for the place he was standing was holy ground. Josh. 5:13-15
  - 3) There are 36 appearances from Genesis to Judges, 19 in Judges.
- b. Jesus, as the Angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim.
  - 1) Gilgal was a very significant location in their past deliverance.
    - a) Gilgal means a wheel or rolling because God had rolled away the reproach of Egypt. Josh. 5:9
    - b) This was the location of first encampment after crossing Jordan in flood season and God commanded them to circumcise all the males born in the wilderness, representing the cutting of the “flesh life”, having entered the land of promise to walk by faith. Josh. 5:1-5
  - 2) Bochim “Bokiym”, means to weep.
    - a) The location was near Gilgal.

- b) The people were weeping for the consequences of compromise with the people of the land.
- c. Jesus, as the Angel of the Lord declared His faithfulness to the covenant. vs. 1d-e
  - 1) He had been faithful to lead them out of Egypt and brought them into the land he swore to the fathers, Abram, Isaac and Jacob. Gen. 12:1-3; 15:18-21; 17:8
  - 2) He would continue to be faithful to His covenant to the nation of Israel and never brake it.
- 2. The visitation of the Angel of the Lord was to remind them of the conditions of His covenant they had broken. vs. 2
  - \* “And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.’ But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this?”
  - a. They were to make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land. vs. 2a
    - \* Ex. 23:32; 34:12
    - 1) God was very clear in His command, “and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them *and* utterly **destroy** them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them.” Deut. 7:2

- 2) The reason was just as clear, “For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and **destroy** you suddenly.” Deut 7:4
- 3) They had made a covenant with the Gibeonites at Gilgal, being deceived by not taking council of the Lord, but trusted their eyes and own judgment, so Joshua made them woodcutters and water carriers for the people and the altar of the Lord. Josh. 9:1-27
- b. They were to tear down their altars in the mountain, hills and valleys. vs. 2b
  - \* Ex. 34:13; Deut. 12:2
  - 1) These represented the shrines of their pagan gods the people of the land worshipped.
  - 2) Many were debauched with sexual rites and lewd practices.
  - 3) Child sacrifice to the god Molech.
- c. They had not obeyed His voice. vs. 2c
  - 1) They had not killed all the people in the land, as the instrument of God’s judgment for their evil living, but allowed the people of the land to dwell with them. Judges 1:19, 26, 27, 28-35
  - 2) Their disobedience would ultimately enslave them to those of

- the land and bring judgment on them by the hand of God.
- d. The question was, “Why have you done this?”
    - 1) There is no answer given, implying they had no excuse or defense.
    - 2) Their guilt was their own by breaking the covenant, not God.
- B.** The reminder of the consequences for disobeying the covenant. vs. 3-5
1. The chastening of the unfaithful people. vs. 3

\* “Therefore I also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be *thorns* in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.’”

    - a. God would not help them expel the people out of the land. vs. 3a-b
      - 1) They could of driven them out.
      - 2) They chose to not drive them out.
      - 3) They now would not be able to drive them out.
    - b. God would allow the people to be a source of discomfort to Israel. vs. 3c
      - 1) The idea behind “thorns” is pain and difficulties living in the land.
      - 2) This was a self-inflicted condition through disobedience.
    - c. God would allow the heathen gods to become a stumbling stone to them. vs. 3d

- 1) The word snare “mowqesh” means a trap, lure or bait.
  - 2) The sinful and sensual practices of the people of the land, they would not be able to resist, but taken in to their own destruction.
2. The people responded by weeping. vs. 4
    - a. These were not tears of true repentance, but remorse. 2Cor. 7:10; Joel 2:12-13; Ezk. 18:23; 30b, 32
    - b. They were sorry for the consequences.
  3. The people memorialized their compromise. vs. 5
    - a. They named the place Bochim; weeping, insincere repentance.
    - b. They sacrificed there to the LORD.
      - 1) The covenant God.
      - 2) God looks for a broken and contrite heart. Ps. 51:17

### Illustration

Some Christians think being carnal is a denomination!

### Application

1. Each of us need to stay in the word of God to be reminded about the standard and conditions of a godly life of the New Covenant.
  - a. Religious rituals can not enable us to live the life of Christ, “For in Christ Jesus neither

circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a **new creation**.” Gal. 6:15

- b. Whole-hearted commitment to the word brings the blessings, “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall **meditate** in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” Josh. 1:8
- c. Sound doctrine protects, “Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will **save** both yourself and those who hear you.” 1Tim. 4:16

2. The little compromises are the ones that take a great toll on us, they add up and brake us down.

- 1) “Catch us the **foxes**, The little **foxes** that spoil the vines, For our vines *have* tender grapes.” Song Sol. 2:15
- 2) “Your glorying *is* not good. Do you not know that a **little leaven** leavens the whole lump?” 1Cor. 5:6

3. The neglect to hold oneself accountable will cause us to settle for a life of mediocrity, rather than excellence.

- a. “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*. And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for* an

imperishable *crown*. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.” 1Cor. 9:24-27

- b. “The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.” Rom. 13:12-14

*The cost of compromise is great!*

## II. The constant progression of compromise. vs. 6-15

A. The people became content with the land alone. vs. 6-9

1. The people were encouraged by Joshua to finish taking possession of their inheritance in the land. vs. 6

\* “And when Joshua had dismissed the people, the children of Israel went each to his own inheritance to possess the land.”

a. The man Joshua blessed them and let the people depart. Josh. 22:6; 24:28

- b. The first two chapters of Judges overlap the closing days of Joshua, providing a smooth transition.
  - c. The information is at time complementary, at other times supplementary, but not contradictory.
2. The people served the Lord for a very short time in the land. vs. 7
- \* “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.
- a. They served all the days of Joshua. vs. 7a  
\* Joshua died being 110. vs. 8
  - b. They served all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had witnessed the incredible works of Yahweh and for Israel. vs. 7b
    - 1) Twenty to thirty years or so!
    - 2) The testimony of Yahweh was not transmitted, as well as rejected by the people.
    - 3) They became an entitled generation, being cut off from their founding history!
3. The people lost a great leader through death. vs. 8
- \* “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.”
- a. Joshua the son of Nun is called the servant of the LORD. vs. 8a
  - b. Joshua died at the ripe old age of one hundred and ten years old. vs. 8b
  - c. Joshua’s burial is ten miles north-west of Bethel. Josh. 19:50; 24:30
- B. The people became strangers to the Lord. vs. 10-12
- 1. The people were influenced and corrupted by the heathen of the land. vs. 10  
\* “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. vs. 10
    - a. Christianity is one generation from extinction.
      - 1) The parents must transmit their faith to their children. Deut. 6:7-9, 20-21
      - 2) Their children must be born again themselves.
    - b. The following generations reverted back to the natural, sin nature.
      - 1) This is what is meant in the Scriptures about God visiting the sins of the parents on the third,

- fourth and fifth generation. Ex. 34:7
- 2) Not the corrupt interpretation of faith teachers, to cast out demons out of Christians.
  - 3) Joshua records this same information. Josh. 24:28-31
2. The people gave allegiance to the gods of the land. vs. 11
- \* “Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals.” vs. 11
- a. They conducted themselves in a manner that was disagreeable to God.
    - \* The word evil “ra’ “, means offensively displeasing.
  - b. They lost the consciousness of God in their lives, as the only true God and Creator.
    - \* Living openly in contradiction of all they knew about God!
  - c. They served as slaves the Baals of the land, becoming polytheists.
    - \* The word is plural for Baals of the land, Baal-peor, Baal-zebub, Baal-berith, occultic and fertility gods.
3. The people apostatized from God. vs. 12
- a. They turned their backs on the covenant God of their fathers, Yahweh, who delivered in the Exodus. vs. 12a-b

- \* “And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt.”
- 1) The word forsook “ ‘azab” means to depart from and leave behind.
  - 2) No one takes you away, you give permission and leave Him.
- b. They turned to the gods of the pagan people and worshipped them. vs. 12c
- \* “and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them.”
- 1) Without following Yahweh, there was no ability to resist the gods of the land.
  - 2) Without worshipping the true and living God man will worship false gods.
- c. They turned Yahweh’s anger on them. vs. 12d
- \* “and they provoked the LORD to anger. vs. 12
- 1) The reason being Yahweh is a holy God.
  - 2) Moses said, “for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name *is Jealous*, is a **jealous** God.” Ex. 34:14
- C. The people became committed to a life of sin, becoming the enemies of God. vs. 13-15

1. They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. vs. 13
  - \* “They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.”
  - a. Baal means master, possessor or husband.
    - 1) He was the fertility god of Canaanites.
    - 2) Sexual rites and child sacrifice were practiced.
  - b. Ashtaroth was the consort of Baal.
    - 1) It is the plural of Ashtarte.
    - 2) Ashtaroth was the goddess of war and fertility, Solomon worshipped. 1Kings 11:5
2. The Lord Yahweh fought against them. vs. 14
  - a. The anger of Yahweh was poured out on them. vs. 14a
    - \* “And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel.”
  - b. The holy anger of God turned them over to be devastated by their enemies, removing the wall of protection. vs. 14b-c
    - \* “So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around.”
  - c. The result being they were constantly running from their enemies. vs. 14c-d

- \* “so that they could no longer stand before their enemies.”
2. The Lord Yahweh was being faithful to keep the words of His covenant to them. vs. 15
    - \* Ex. 24; Lev. 26; Deut. 28-29; Josh. 24
    - a. The very hand of Yahweh was for their calamity. vs. 15a
      - \* “Wherever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for calamity.”
    - b. The Lord Yahweh was true to His words. vs. 15b-c
      - \* “as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn to them.”
    - c. The apostate people of God lived under great pressure and suffering, becoming the tail, instead of the head. vs. 15d
      - \* “And they were greatly distressed.”

### Illustration

Like the guy who thinks he can handle one bear when he gets home to relax him, then it is two, three and so on.

### Application

1. The danger with the material blessings of God is that we will become content with things, rather than the One who has provided those things.
  - \* “Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. “For

whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matt. 16:24-26

2. The danger then is to begin to live a worldly life following the culture of the day and deceive ourselves thinking that it is alright, due to no longer being in the word, prayer or fellowship with a whole heart.

\* "Do not love the **world** or the things in the **world**. If anyone loves the **world**, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the **world**--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the **world**. And the **world** is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." 1Jn. 2:15-17

3. When we become friends of the world we become the enemies of God.

\* "Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an **enemy** of God." Ja. 4:4

4. The danger to the second generation is to return to a life of sin is very real.

\* "Now therefore, fear the **LORD**, **serve** Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. **Serve** the **LORD**! And if it seems evil to you to **serve** the **LORD**, choose for yourselves this day whom you will **serve**, whether

the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will **serve** the **LORD**." Josh. 24:14-15

*The constant progression of compromise is certain!*

### III. The calloused heart of compromise. vs. 16-23

A. The Lord demonstrated compassion over the people. vs. 16-19

1. The LORD raised up leaders. vs. 16

\* "Nevertheless, the Lord raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them."

- a. The judges were more like leader to champion the cause of Yahweh to brake the cycle of apostasy.
- b. Only to repeat the cycle of bondage, insincere repentance, brief obedience and apostasy.

2. The people were rebellious. vs. 17

- a. Hardening their hearts, "Yet they would not listen to their judges." vs. 17a
- b. Giving in to their evil hearts, "But they played the harlot with other gods, and bowed down to them." vs. 17b-c



- \* A familiar phrase for their unfaithful. Jer. 2:20; Hos. 2:5
- c. Following their hearts, “They turned quickly from the way in which their fathers walked, in obeying the commandments of the LORD; they did not do so.” vs. 17d-f
3. The LORD did it out of love for the people. vs. 18
- a. Being compassionate, “And when the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge.” vs. 18a-b
- b. Being caring, “For the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed them and harassed them.” vs. 18c
4. The people did not learn from their sin or Yahweh’s pity. vs. 19
- a. Being uncommitted, “And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers.” vs. 19a-b
- b. Being unstable, “By following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them.” vs. 19c-d
- c. Being unwilling, “They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way.” vs. 19e

- B. The Lord delivered the people to the corruption of the land. vs. 20-23
1. The personal verdict of the Lord was justified. vs. 20
- \* “Then the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and He said, “Because this nation has transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not heeded My voice.”
2. The personal promise was to not fight for them. vs. 21
- \* “I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died.”
3. The personal purpose of the Lord behind His proclamation. vs. 22-23
- a. To try them, “So that through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the ways of the LORD, to walk in them as their fathers kept them, or not.” vs. 22
- \* The remnant of Israel, those like in the book of Ruth, obeying during this time!
- b. To respect their choices, “Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out immediately; nor did He deliver them into the hand of Joshua.” vs. 23

### Illustration

The destructive multitude of evil in our post-modern society is not considered to be wrong or immoral, in fact if you criticize it, you are considered a bigot and evil.

### Application

1. God is ever ready to forgive and restore fellowship with believer who have turn from Him.  
\* “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an **Advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” 1Jn. 2:1
2. God would have us turn people over to Satan, in hope of their repentance.  
\* “This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.” 1Tim. 1:18-20; 1Cor. 5:5
3. God will give people up to their sin.  
\* “Therefore God also **gave** them **up** to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, For this reason God **gave** them **up** to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. **And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge**, God **gave** them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all

unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.” Rom. 1:24-32

4. God can never be blamed for our choice to sin.  
\* “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. And again, “**The LORD will judge His people.**” Heb. 10:26-30

*The calloused heart of compromise brings utter destruction!*

We have examine the dangers of compromise laid out three movements:

- I.** The cost of compromise, is great!
- II.** The constant progression of compromise is certain!
- III.** The calloused heart of compromise brings utter destruction!