

Crashing Through Quitting Points!

Misguided Illusions

Luke 22:47-48

Psalm 89:15 (NLT) — 15 Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship, for they will walk in the light of your presence, LORD.

Do you believe the Lord has done GREAT THINGS?

Hear the call to worship this morning and step into the light of His presence!

Let's worship the Lord together!!!

What are Quitting Points?

- ***Quitting points are those roadblocks in life that make us want to give up***

Quitting Points are a Universal reality

- ***Quitting Points are a universal reality - Everyone HAS them and everyone HITS them***

What separates the Conquerors from the Quitters?

Over the next several weeks we are going to look at some common ROADBLOCKS that become Quitting Points...

We are not going to be looking at how we can avoid quitting points, but rather how we can see them for what they are and crash through them!

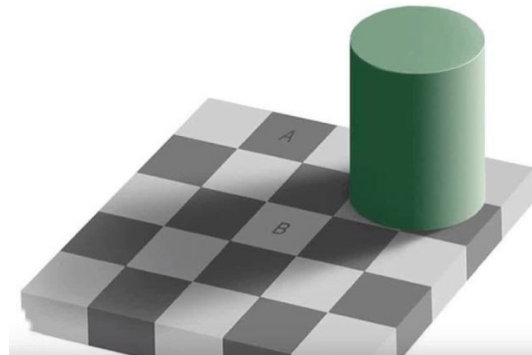
- ***Quitting points will either DEFINE us or REFINE us...***
- ***Quitting points need not BIND us, but can REMIND us of God's faithfulness through every trial***

Today we are going to begin with the first QUITTING POINT that I'm calling "Mistaken Illusions"

- ***An illusion is a mistaken perception of reality; A false belief; A misconception***

Illusions can be fun!

→ Pic Board 1



On this Chessboard two squares are marked with the letters "A" and "B"...

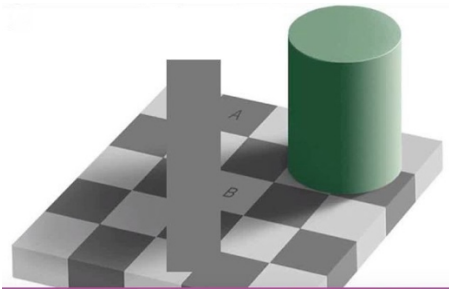
In looking at them, which square is darker?

What if I told you they were the SAME SHADE OF GRAY?

I know some of you don't believe me...

So, here is the same board, but with a GRAY STRIP...

→ Pic Board 2



While these types of illusions are fun, illusions, or mistaken perceptions of reality, in life can become devastating quitting points.

Today we are going to be focusing on the quitting point of one of the most notorious people who has ever lived...

We are going to be looking at the quitting point of Judas Iscariot...

Here is the question?

How could Judas betray Jesus?

- Judas had left everything to follow Jesus
- He had been with Jesus for THREE YEARS
- He had seen Jesus...
- ... HEAL the BLIND, DEAF, and CRIPPLE
- ... FEED the 5000 and then the 4000
- ... TEACH about the Kingdom of God

- ... REBUKE the PROUD and show COMPASSION to the HUMBLE
- ... RAISE LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD!

Yet, Judas Quit!

He reached his quitting point and instead of crashing through, he just crashed...

Luke 22:47–48 (ESV) — While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, 48 but Jesus said to him, “Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?”

The Quitters misguided Illusions

1. Their Perception of Reality follows their ideas about the Lord rather than the Lord

Now this is VERY COMMON...

In fact, I would say that most people begin here...

We have an idea of what it is going to be like following the Lord, but as time passes we find our ideas were naïve at best...

ILLUSTRATION: This is like the honeymoon stage in a marriage...

“We will never have any serious problems in our marriage”

In premarital counseling almost all respond, “STRONGLY AGREE”

After the honeymoon stage (about 6 months) they begin to realize that their perception of reality was greatly mistaken!

All the disciples believed that Jesus was the Messiah (even Judas)...

But their mistaken perception was that He was going to usher in His Kingdom NOW...

Luke 19:11 (ESV) — As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately.

Jesus kept telling them that he was going to Jerusalem to suffer, but they wouldn't listen because of their mistaken perception of reality...

2. They Project upon the Lord the expectations of their beliefs

This too is very common...

Let me attempt to explain it and then show how Judas reached his quitting point...

We do the same!!!

➤ ILLUSTRATION – I'm a Procrastinator

- My Motto is “Why do today what I can put off till tomorrow”***

- I'm married to just the opposite!***
- Kathy's motto is “Do today so it won't be hanging over you tomorrow”***
- For years this caused great problems!***
- She would ask me to do something (meaning right now) and I would say, “OK” meaning sometime in the future...***
- When I didn't move, or more likely, when I later forgot, she would see that as unloving and uncaring because in her mind if I loved her and meant “OK” I would get up and get it done...***
- On the other hand, when she said, “Let's do it now,” I became offended that she would expect me to get right up...***
- Thursday Kathy said that we needed to clean our gutters...***
- I said, “OK”...***
- After 40 years of marriage, I've learned that when she says “We need to...” or “I need you to help me with...” I know SHE MEANS NOW!***
- So Friday morning we went out and cleaned all our gutters...***

We ALL project our beliefs on others!

Have you ever said, “I would NEVER ...” or “I can't believe they said...”?

Let's see how Judas projected onto Jesus his mistaken beliefs ...

John 12:1–3 (ESV) — 1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. 3 Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

John 12:4–6 (ESV) — But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, 5 “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” 6 He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.

Judas had hit his quitting point!

Nothing was working out as planned...

So, he had opened himself to danger!

Luke 22:3–6 (ESV) — Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. 4 He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. 5 And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. 6 So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd.

As a result...

Luke 22:47–48 (ESV) — While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, 48 but Jesus said to him, “Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?”

➤ ***When we project onto Jesus our faulty beliefs from a mistaken perception of reality, our illusion will leave us disillusioned.***

So, how do we conquer a mistaken illusion?

As an illustration of conquerors when facing a quitting point let's turn back to a familiar story in the Old Testament...

It's the story of the three Jewish men named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego...

The Conquerors Reality

There are two things I want us to see in them that led them to crash through the quitting point and become CONQUERORS rather than QUITTERS...

1. They worshipped the Lord exclusively ... even when it was dangerous

They had proven themselves trustworthy and therefore King Nebuchadnezzar had placed them as leaders in Babylon...

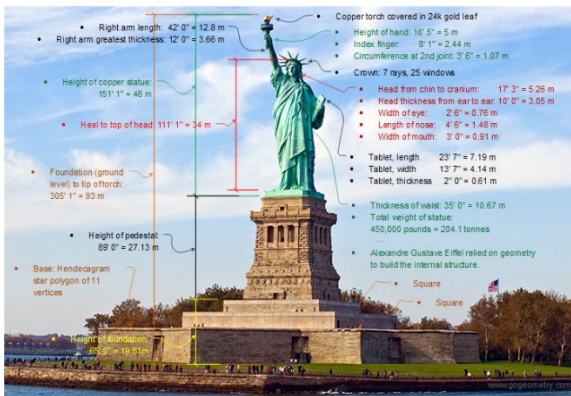
Nebuchadnezzar, the world ruler at the time wanted to unite his kingdom around himself...

So he had a statue of himself made...

It was 90 feet tall and 9 feet wide

By comparison, the Statue of Liberty is 111 feet tall from head to feet (the entire statue is 305 feet tall)

→ Pic of Statue of Liberty



While the Statue of Liberty may be taller, it is made of COPPER while King Nebuchadnezzar's statue was made of PURE GOLD!

When music from all the instruments began to play, everyone was commanded to bow down to the statue...

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down to the idol... even though they knew it meant being thrown into a fiery furnace

2. They trusted the Lord completely ... even when it didn't make sense

They were brought before the king and he was furious!

However, he so trusted them that he gave them an option to change their mind...

He said, "Hey guys, just bow before the statue ... you don't even have to mean it..."

"I'll let you go if you'll just give a quick bow"

I'm sure he was telling them that they could even be like the kid whose Mom told him to sit down...

He didn't want to sit down... Finally she grabbed him and sat him in the chair and told him to not get up!

He said, "I may be sitting on the outside, but I'm still standing on the inside!"

I'm sure the king would have been fine with that...

But Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were not ultimately answerable to the king of Babylon...

They were following the King of Kings!

Daniel 3:16–18 (ESV) — Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that

we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

You know the rest of the story...

They were thrown into the fire, but didn't burn!

In fact, their clothes didn't even smell like smoke!

The only thing that burned in the fire was the ropes that bound their hands and feet!

Here's the point...

They Conquered the fire long before they were thrown in the fire!

They had crashed through their quitting point!

This morning the verse I read in Proverbs said...

Proverbs 13:19 (NLT) — It is pleasant to see dreams come true, but fools refuse to turn from evil to attain them.

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April 19, 2020

Crossgates – AM Message

David Jett