Compromising God's Ways

Greg Kline · 1 Kings 12:25–33

INTRODUCTION

- Solomon at the end was faced with the decision to obey God, to trust in God, and Solomon chose otherwise.
- What we have here is the tragic tale of a people who rejected God, and in reaping what they had sown, the kingdom had split into two.
- He was promised by God, if you will follow me, I will bless you.

1 He Changed the Object of Worship

1 Kings 12:28; 1 Kings 12:32

- Not all counsel is good counsel. Just because you asked someone for advice doesn't mean that it's good.
- You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold, your gods, O Israel, who took you up out of the land of Egypt.
- He had changed the object of worship from directly God to the very thing that in the Ten Commandments that God had given his people, he told them not to do.
- He did in Bethel sacrificing to the calves that he had made.

2 He Changed the Place of Worship

1 Kings 12:29

- He said one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.
- It doesn't make it right, but you can understand Jeroboam saying, I don't want all my people parading to Jerusalem as they are supposed to do.
- You don't need to go all the way down there. I've set up these idols that you can worship God from here in my kingdom.

3 He Changed Who Could Be a Priest

1 Kings 12:31

- He also made temples on high places and appointed priests from among all the people who were not of the Levites.
- This would not be a problem if God hadn't specifically appointed the Levites to be his people, to be his priests.
- Jeroboam had no regard for what God truly cared about.

4 He Changed the Time of the Worship

1 Kings 12:33; Leviticus 23:33–36

- This would be okay if God had not specifically pointed out where, when, and how worship to him was to be administered.
- On the fifteenth day of this seventh month, and for seven days is the feast of booths to the Lord.
- When God says the feast is to be this day, and you are to do it in this way, that is just as important as any other command of God.
- Because if we reject God in one way, why not the other?

5 Selfishness and Fear

1 Kings 12:26–27; Acts 13:42–45; Matthew 23

- Perhaps the most human reason that Jeroboam offers is one of selfishness and fear.
- But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him.
- Sometimes it might not be worth it to tell a friend that they're in error because I might lose that relationship.
- What are we willing to compromise the will of God for in our minds, in our hearts?

6 He Ruled As He Devised in His Heart

1 Kings 12:33; Leviticus 10

- If there is something that God is clear on, it is over and again that God's way goes.
- The Bible is full of the fact that God judges his people.
- If I'm going to be a pleasing servant of his, the answer in my life must be that I care about that which God says he cares.
- The choice to follow God is clear. Do as God says or do as you will.
- Where does the Bible say that it's unimportant to be a Christian 24-7?

THE CHALLENGE

So the only question is, will I do as God says? Knowing that God is, and what God has said will always come to pass. Am I Jeroboam? Or am I David?

MY NOTES