Life in the Divided Kingdom

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INTRODUCTION

- It's not recorded, and really none of the sins of God's old covenant people are recorded so that we can look down on them.
- It was recorded, the negative lessons of history were recorded so that we can look at that and say, I don't want to do that.
- We're going to talk about three sins, three categories of sins, if you will, that kind of typified that time period.

1 Idolatry, the Sin of the Divided Kingdom

Exodus 20:1–7; Isaiah 46:3–7; Matthew 6:24

- You shall have no other gods before me. In other words, I'm it.
- Your idol, if it needs to move from one room to the other, you have to pick up your God and carry it. But I have carried you.
- Because we recognize that idolatry can take many forms. And it's still possible for us to put something ahead of God.
- In Colossians chapter 3, the Apostle Paul said, covetousness is idolatry.
- We need to make sure that we either in our past or today have a conscious deliberate conversion.
- I am deciding that he is going to be my God and my Lord, that He will dictate everything that I do.

2 Insincere Service

Isaiah 1:10–13; Joel 2:12–13

- They might come physically back to the temple rather than the temple of idols, but their heart wasn't fully in it in their service to God.
- He says, I cannot bear iniquity and your sacrifices. I can't stand the inconsistency.
- Your incense stinks. Your sacrifices, I can't even stand to look at them. Why? Because you're being unfaithful to me.
- So rend your heart and not your garments, says the Lord.
- Don't just go through that outward shine that you're serving me, that you're returning to me, but do it from the inside.
- Is our service sincere? Are we just coming to the temple and offering our sacrifices? While there's iniquity in our lives.

3 They Forsook the Law of God

- Josiah, that young king, issues an order that we need to clean out the temple and get it ready to be used.
- Well, they dust it off and they read it, and Josiah and those other good godly men are horrified.

- Hosea, one of the prophets we studied, said in chapter 4 and verse 6, my people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge.
- They forsook God's law. Simple as that.
- We must understand that though we live in a different time and a different covenant and different regulations, that the principles are the same.
- When we forsake that law, we are forsaking him.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Would you not forsake his law? Would you be sincere in your coming to him with your whole heart? And would you honor him through a conscious, deliberate conversion this morning?**

MY NOTES