Obstacles to Greater Faithfulness

Greg Kline · 1 Kings 12:25–33

INTRODUCTION

- Sometimes distraction is to our benefit. But often it's the benefit of the adversary, the enemy.
- Rehoboam made a foolish decision. And because of it now there was going to be Israel in the north, the ten tribes of Israel, and Judah in the south.

1 Why and How Jeroboam Rejected God

1 Kings 12:25–33

- But Jeroboam rejected that. He refused to be faithful to the Lord, rather imposing his own sense of justice and right and wrong.
- Jeroboam's worried about how will the people be faithful to me, not faithful to God.
- I'm going to change who they're going to worship. I'm going to change where they're going to worship. I'm going to change how they worship. I'm going to change who could be a priest.
- Where did Jeroboam get this idea and all the others? As he devised from his own heart.
- I think sometimes we have obstacles, maybe not to worshiping God, but to growing in our service to God.

2 One Obstacle That Keeps Us From Him Is Fear

Matthew 14:26–31

- You have to continually walk in the ways of our Lord. Jesus says, if you love me, you will keep my commandments.
- But when he saw the wind, he was afraid. And beginning to sink, he cried out, Lord, save me.
- First couple steps being successful doesn't mean that we're going to be pleasing to God forever.
- When you are in fear, when you are afraid, even when you are terrified, that's the best time to look to Jesus.
- If we cry out to the Lord and change, we can be like Peter who said, Lord, save me.

3 Another Obstacle to Faithfulness Is Pride

Matthew 18:1–4; Philippians 2

- At that time the disciples came to Jesus saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?
- If we start thinking we've arrived, we've stopped acknowledging the need for Jesus.
- Unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
- I need to set aside fear and look to Jesus. I need to set aside pride and become like a child.

4 Willing to Compromise God's Laws for Convenience

Hebrews 12:1–4

- He was willing to compromise any and all of God's laws as long as it served his purpose and will.
- Let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely. And let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.
- Maybe if I just do most of what God wants, that's good enough.
- God's will should be done no matter what. Not in part, but in whole.
- Running this race is not a sprint. It is a race that requires endurance.

5 Forgetting What Really Matters

Colossians 3

- Sometimes the biggest obstacle to greater faithfulness isn't fear. It's not pride, it's not compromising. It's big picture. It's forgetting what really matters.
- When we forget about heaven and we forget that heaven is about pleasing God, we'll never make the right answers to the rest of the test.
- God demonstrated his own love towards us. And that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. That is what really matters.
- Set your mind on things above and fear won't catch you. Focus on God and pride will never befall you.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **This morning the only question is, will I put God first? Or I might add to that only question, will I put God first right away?**

MY NOTES