The Faithfulness Our God Requires

Ken Chapman · 1 Corinthians 10:1–13

INTRODUCTION

- We do not appreciate the solution until we appreciate the problem. Christ is the solution. Sin is the problem, and the Old Testament emphasizes that problem.
- We have a clear understanding of what God expects of his people.
- God's general demands have not changed. And so we see the behavior of God's covenant people.

1 The Privileges of God's People

1 Corinthians 10:1–4; Romans 6:17–18; Colossians 2:11–15

- All our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink.
- That symbolized God's protection, God's presence and God's direction to his people.
- Though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.
- We are the children of Israel today. We were in that bondage. We were in that state of hopelessness and helplessness, but we've been set free.
- It's not just some command to be fulfilled. It is a blessing and a privilege.
- Jesus in the Gospel of John would say, I am the bread of life.

2 The Unfaithfulness of God's People

1 Corinthians 10:5–10

- Though they had the deliverance from their bondage, though they had this baptism of sorts, though they had bread, though they had water, though they had God's guidance, that did not isolate them from unfaithfulness.
- But with most of them God was not well pleased. For their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.
- Although God has blessed us and privileged us over and over again with both physical and more importantly, spiritual blessings, that does not guarantee our faithfulness.
- That's the way it ought to be. But Israel's history repeatedly teaches us this lesson. That's not the way it often is.
- Those examples of unfaithfulness were not put there so that we could shake our head in derision at what they did. They were put there as a lesson and an example so that we might not do the same thing.

3 The Lessons of God's People

1 Corinthians 10:11–13; Hebrews 11; Lamentations 3:22–23

- All these things happen to them as examples. And they were written for our admonition, on whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore, let him who thinks he stands. Take heed lest he fall.

- The warning is that although you have all of those privileges, all of those blessings, you can still be unfaithful. That's the warning. The encouragement is you don't have to be.
- Although most of them did not find the way of escape, there is a way of escape.
- That faithfulness is possible. Not just because of the privileges and the blessings that he gives us, but it's possible because our God is faithful.
- Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning. Great is thy faithfulness.

THE CHALLENGE

Learn the lesson that temptation is real. The privileges of God do not eliminate those temptations, but also learn the lesson that God is faithful. And he makes a way for you to be faithful. Are you faithful to God?

MY NOTES