

The Sin of Doing Nothing

Judges 5:23

Introduction

1. After the days of Joshua a generation arose in Israel that was not obedient to God.
2. For nearly two-hundred years Israel was in a constant cycle of sin, punishment, repentance and deliverance (Judges 2:11-19).
3. God rose up judges who would deliver the people when they repented.
4. The fourth judge after the death of Joshua was a woman named Deborah (Judges 4:4).
5. Our lesson comes from a song she wrote after her victory over Sisera.

Discussion

I. Deborah's Victory

- A. Vs. 6 Deborah sent Barak to go against Sisera, a commander in the Canaanite army.
 1. Vs. 8 Barak refused to go unless Deborah went with him.
 2. Vs. 9 So she went, pointing out that it would be said that Sisera was delivered into the hands of a woman.
- B. Vs. 14-16 Deborah and Barak were victorious by the hand of the Lord.
 1. The result of the battle: Sisera was killed by a woman who stabbed in with a spear in his sleep.
 2. The Canaanites were defeated.
 3. Deborah wrote a song in the wake of this battle.

II. The Song of Deborah.

- A. It was often the case in those days that after a great victory by the hand of the Lord the Lord's servants would write a song describing their victory.
- B. Deborah wrote such a song and it is recorded in Judges 5.
- C. In her Song Deborah records both blessings and praises upon the Lord and curses upon her enemies.
- D. One of those enemies is mentioned specifically in 5:23.

III. The sin of doing nothing.

- A. The angel of the Lord spoke this curse against Meroz.
- B. *“‘Curse Meroz,’ said the angel of the LORD, ‘Curse its inhabitants bitterly, because they did not come to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty.’”*

- C. What had Meroz done that deserved such a curse? Absolutely nothing – that was the point.
 - 1. What should have Meroz done? He should have helped!
 - 2. God’s people were struggling, His army was fighting, and Meroz did nothing to help God or His people.
- D. Did God need Meroz’ help?
 - 1. We saw in the story that God was victorious without the help of Meroz.
 - 2. Therefore, God did not need his help.
 - 3. However, Meroz needed the blessing which would come through helping God’s people.
 - 4. Through this example we are able to see the great importance that God places upon our being active and involved in His work.
 - 5. This example ought to cause us to ask the question...

IV. Will Christians Be Cursed for Doing Nothing?

- A. Idleness is an abomination to the Lord: Proverbs 10:26.
 - 1. In Proverbs 31:27 we learn that the worthy woman does not eat the bread of idleness.
 - 2. In 2 Thessalonians 3:6 Paul tells us to withdraw ourselves from every brother who walks disorderly and in verses 10-12 he states that some who walked disorderly were guilty of idleness.
 - 3. Surely, God’s desire for men to be active in His work is as strong today as it was in the days of Deborah.
 - 4. For this reason we must strive not to follow in the path of Meroz. Rather, we must strive to do the work; to be active doing the Lord’s will.
- B. Jesus worked in all things that the Father gave Him to do (John 5:15; 9:4) and we are to follow in His footsteps.
- C. In the parables Jesus taught us that we must bear fruit in every good work and that those who do not bear fruit are cast into the fire (John 15:1-2).
- D. Finally, in 1 Corinthians 15:58 we are exhorted to abound in the work of the Lord if we are to obtain the heavenly reward that comes through Him.

V. The Scene at the judgment – Matthew 25:31-48.

- A. In describing the judgment day, Jesus not only illustrates the judgment of the just and the unjust, He also describes the works that we are to busy ourselves with—Read the Passage.
- B. What are the works that He says we are to busy ourselves with?
 - 1. Feed those who are hungry
 - 2. Give drink to those who thirst
 - 3. Show hospitality toward strangers
 - 4. Clothe those who are without clothes

5. Care for those who are sick
6. Visit those who are imprisoned.

C. Jesus applied all of these things to Himself.

1. But notice the application he made in verse 40:
2. “...in as much as you did it to one of the least of My brethren, you did it to Me.”

Conclusion

1. God did not need the help of Meroz. He was victorious without him.
2. Rather, it was Meroz that needed the blessing of the Lord which came through serving Him.
3. Likewise, God does not need our help to accomplish His will.
4. But we need Him—we need to serve Him.
5. Jesus said that when we serve one another we are actually serving Him. What do you busy yourself with?
6. Let us conclude with Micah 6:8, which says, “*He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?*” Are you doing what is good?

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