

Saving the Saved

Scripture: Hebrews 10:23-25 “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

Introduction:

When I was a little boy a man and his family moved to our church. He was very knowledgeable about God and soon began teaching bible classes and even preaching. It was so nice to have the extra help since we were a very small Church. Over time we got to know them and became very close with them. I used to go mow their grass and help them with chores.

Later, my dad was laid off from McDonald Douglas for a while a this man owned a plating company and hired dad. What a blessing this was.....Until one day I heard dad telling mom about the inappropriate way that this man was acting with his secretary at work.

A short time later that man had an affair and left his wife and broke up his family. I remember wondering how bad that must be for a family to go through this kind of thing. Then about the same time this man also quite the church and abandoned us also. Then I understood all the more, because I loved this man too.

When I think about this today it makes my heart sad to think about how many Christians through the years have abandoned their faith and left the assembly of God's people. If you stop and think you can probably think of a few yourself.

Transitional Statement:

Church in this lesson I hope for us to gain some perspective on just what happens when Christians run off and leave God and His people. I also want to remind us how important the encouragement we give to each other is.

Lesson:

I. Israel in it hay day

A. They were chosen by God

Deuteronomy 7:6 “For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.”

B. Delivered from Egyptian bondage.

C. He made a covenant with them.

D. Entrusted with the Law of God.

E. God gave them a land of their own...flowing with milk and honey.

F. He protected them

G. Made them victorious in battle.

H. He provided for them

I. And, He lived among

J. He blessed them mightily and they enjoyed His favor

K. 2 Samuel 6:14 “And David was dancing before the Lord with all his might, and David was wearing a linen ephod.”

-Celebration

II. But Israel, turned their back on God.

A. Their trust in God was very shallow....

B. God told them not to marry foreign wives (Duet 7:1-5)

-But, they did anyway....Solomon

C. They broke God’s commands at every turn

D. Their spiritual leaders became corrupt

E. They Prostituted themselves on every hill

-Jeremiah 3:6 “Then the Lord said to me in the days of Josiah the king, "Have you seen what faithless Israel did? She went up on every high hill

and under every green tree, and she was a harlot there.

-Think about the implicitness of the book of Hosea

III. A portrait of a heart turned away from God.

A. Think of the book of Lamentations as a portrait of people who have turned away from God.

1:1 Jerusalem, once a wonderful city...now empty

-Like a widow with only memories of the past.

-Like a Queen ...who is now a slave.

1:2 Those that Jerusalem had turned to for help...have even abandoned her

-1:17 even her neighbors turned against her

1:3 Judah is now a slave

-Living among the nations

-No rest

1:4 The road leading into Jerusalem is deserted.

-Worship has stopped

-Desolation

1:5 Jerusalem's children are affected by her bad choices.

-5:7...our fathers have sinned and we bear their punishment.

1:6 All Jerusalem's splendor is gone

1:8 Jerusalem's sin is great

1:9 No comfort for her

1:10 Her enemies enter the temple

-God allowed this because He was gone !

1:11 She was hungry with no food.

-Children dying of starvation in her arms 2:12

-So hungry that she ate her own children 2:20 & 4:10

1:15 God has trampled virgin daughter Judah in his winepress

1:19 The priests and elders are just as guilty

2:2 God cause destruction all around Israel

2:9 God stopped moving in the heart of their leaders.

2:15 Became a spectacle of the nations

2:21 Her men and woman slain by the sword.

2:2 God lost pity for Israel

2:1 God covered His daughter Zion with a cloud of anger.

3:44 God stopped hearing their prayers

2:3 God cut off their horn....(Strength)

2:7 God left them.....

5:15 Joy was gone and the dancing stopped

III. The heart of the prophet

Lamentations 1:16

16 "For these things I weep;

My eyes run down with water;

Because far from me is a comforter,

One who restores my soul.

My children are desolate

Because the enemy has prevailed."

IV. I can't imagine anyone giving up the blessings of godliness for this type of life.

A. But Jesus know that people will turn their back on God.

B. So He asksWhat are you willing to give in exchange for your soul

Matt 16:26

C. Hebrews 10:26 "For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

Conclusion:

Can we do anything to prevent others from turning away from God.

Matt 18 go to each other and correct.

Pray together.

Confess our own difficultites.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 “Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.