

The Sin of Meroz

Int.

1. Aim: To show that the sin of inactivity will cause us to be cursed.
2. Judges 5:23 "Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the LORD, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty."
3. Setting
 - a. In Judges 4 we read about Israel being oppressed by the Canaanites. Jabin, King
 - b. God raised up a judge, a woman, named Deborah.
 - c. The General for the army was Barak. They destroyed the army of the Canaanites.
 - i. The commander for the Canaanites was Sisera.
 - ii. He attempted to find refuge in the tent of a woman named Jael.
 - iii. But when he was asleep she drove a tent peg through his temple.
 - d. After the victory Deborah composed songs describing the events of the battle.
 - e. In Judges 5:23 we read about this curse on Meroz.
4. Meroz
 - a. This was a Village 12 miles from Samaria in the land of Canaan
 - b. God's people were defending their homes and alters against the enemy.
 - c. All of Israel was pouring out thousands to fight the war, but the people of Meroz hung back in sullen indifference.
 - d. They had no zeal for the glory of God and no sympathy for their brethren and refused to help.

5. Therefore they are cursed
 - a. The angel of the Lord saw their cowardice and pronounced them cursed,
 - b. When they did not come to the help of the Lord they turned traitor and were aiding the enemy.
 - c. They were not acting for God therefore they were against God !
6. Let us see why Meroz was cursed and how we can commit the same sin

Discussion

I. MEROZ WAS CURSED FOR INACTIVITY

- A. Cursed for failing to help
 1. They committed no crime or offense
 2. The opportunity to help was there, but they refused to assist the army
 3. They were unpatriotic
 4. Sometimes we cannot be neutral ~ to not act for God means we are on the Devils side
- B. Goodness is more than not doing BAD
 1. We will be judged by what we have left undone as well as by what we have done
 2. Jas.4:17 "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin."
 - a. To know what is right - then refuse to do it, only aggravates and increases our guilt.
 - b. If you know how to do the right and yet do it not, the sin is the greater on account of your knowledge.

- c. It is sin; because it is neglect of known duty.
 - d. Unused knowledge of one's duty is sin, the sin of omission. - Mt 23:23.
3. Mt. 25:40-45
- a. Those on left hand are those who neglected their duties
 - b. These do-nothing people are condemned to OUTER DARKNESS!
 - c. Many people think that it is possible for one to be saved on the basis of things not done. But in these verses you see that our eternal destiny is based on things we do. Those who do nothing are condemned.
4. Jas. 1:27 "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."
- a. Many believe they are blameless if they keep themselves unspotted from the world
 - b. They forget that the first duty is WORK !
- C. Christ's religion demands action — Mt. 7:21 "Doeth"

II. THE CURSE WAS FOR INACTIVITY IN TIME OF WAR

- A. At the time of greatest need Meroz failed to respond
 - 1. Failing to help at any time is wicked
 - 2. But in times of special need the failure to help is shameful and terrible
 - 3. By refusing to help they were co-operating with the enemy!

B. There are times that we act against God "by not acting for Him!

1. Mt. 12:30 "He that is not with me is against me and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad."
 - a. There are only two kingdoms, and every soul is either in one or the other, for there is not third kingdom.
 - b. There is no middle ground between the Kingdom of God & Satan
 - c. We must be allies with God or co-workers with Satan
 - d. One who fights Satan in the name of Christ was for Christ.

2. He that is not for me.
 - a. You cannot be neutral. If you are not for Christ then are for Satan.
 - b. 1 John 2:19

3. Scattereth abroad
 - a. This seems to have been a proverbial form of speech, and may be a metaphor taken from shepherds.
 - b. He who does not help the true shepherd to gather his flock into the fold is, most likely, one who wishes to scatter them, that he may have the opportunity of stealing and destroying them.
 - c. For he that does not gather souls to God, scatters them from him !
 - d. We either gather with (sunagôn) Christ or scatter (skorpizei) to the four winds.

C. The Mistake of Doing Nothing

1. The only person who never makes a mistake is the person who never does anything.
But this person makes the biggest mistake of all - that of not doing anything.
2. Christianity is a way of life
 - a. 2 Cor. 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature: old things are passed away: behold all things are become new."
 - b. We do not become a Christian by accident. We must seek to know and do the truth. We must understand and realize what we are doing to become a Christian.
 - c. Sometimes people are baptized into Christ without a proper understanding of what they are getting into and their responsibilities as a Christian.
 - d. Then they make the mistake of Meroz - that of doing nothing.
3. What are these mistakes?
 - a. Thinking that they do not have to be in attendance. They just attend every now and then, whenever it suits them.
 - b. They do not give as they have been prospered. They forget about their financial responsibilities to God.
 - c. They do not grow and mature as a child of God, they remain as babes.
 - d. They are not active in the work of the church.
4. It will be tragic to appear before God in Judgment having made the mistake of Meroz - the MISTAKE OF DOING NOTHING !

III. WHY SOME COMMIT THIS SIN TODAY

A. BECAUSE WE LOVE SELF MORE THAN GOD

1. Mt. 6:33
2. Phil. 2:21 "For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's."
3. I Cor. 13:5 "...seeketh not her own..."

B. BECAUSE WE ARE ASHAMED

1. Mk. 8:38 -
2. Rom. 1:16
3. Are you ashamed to stand up for Christ and let others know you are a Christian?
That you oppose sin and false doctrine?

C. BECAUSE WE FOLLOW AFAR OFF

1. Peter made this mistake Mt. 26:58
2. Members neglect Bible Study-Worship-Bible Reading — Prayer
3. Many do this when they select friends who are worldly - I I Cor. 6:14-18

D. BECAUSE WE PROCRASTINATE - we live in the tomorrow

1. This led to Absalom's downfall — I I Sam. 17 & 18
2. James warns against trusting in tomorrow - Jas. 4:13-17
3. Tomorrows of obedience never come for some - Acts 24:25 (Felix) "...when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee."

E. BECAUSE OF INDIFFERENCE

1. This was the trouble with the Laodiceans — Rev. 3:16
2. If the success of the church depended upon some, it would die III!

CONCLUSION

1. Judges 5:23
2. The people of Meroz were cursed by God for failing to help = INACTIVITY !
3. God will certainly & Severely punish all deserters, shirkers and cowards who today
DO-NOTHING !!
4. If you are not with Him you are against Him. And if you are against Him, WOE BE UNTO
YOU! - Mt. 12:30
5. Adolphe Monod said, "Between the great things we cannot do and the small things we will
not do, the danger is that we shall do nothing." Leading the Way by Paul Borthwick,
Navpress, 1989, p. 137
6. Do people know you are on the Lord's side ?

Sources

Pulpit Commentary Vol. II
Sermons Outlined — by Charles E. Stovall P. 51

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Oct. 8, 2006 AM
Evans Church of Christ
515 Gibbs Road
Evans, Ga. 30809
706-855-1249
arthurpigman@cybrtyme.com