

Place: Lurgan Baptist 14:7:2013

MOSES, THE SERVANT OF THE LORD

Readings: Exodus 8:25-32 10:1-11 24-26

7. THE DANGER OF COMPROMISE

A New York family bought a ranch out West where they intended to raise cattle. Friends visited their ranch once they got settled, and asked if the ranch had a name. "Well," said the would-be cattleman, "I wanted to name it the Bar-J. My wife favoured Suzy-Q, one son liked the Flying -W, and the other wanted the Lazy-Y." The friends asked, "Well, what did you end up naming it." The rancher said, "Well, I compromised with them and we are calling it the Bar-J-Suzy-Q-Flying-W-Lazy-Y." "But where are your cattle," the friends asked. The rancher said, "None of them survived the branding." When it comes to compromising, there are some areas in which compromise can never be an option. For example, the Bible says "Neither gave place to the devil." (Eph 4:27) My you gave the devil an inch and he will take a mile. You let him in the front door and he will take over the house. Although compromise may be the genius of politics and the secret success in marriage, it is the death of Christian convictions. You see, when it comes to dealing with the Devil compromise is not an option.

However, the Devil is always trying to get us to make compromises. If the Devil can't get you to quit, he'll try to get you to compromise. Here in the Book of Exodus he is

vividly portrayed in the person of Pharaoh (2 Tim 2:26) who under pressure of these plagues suggests four compromises to the people of God. Now let me try and set these four compromises in their historical setting. Do you recall the Lord's purpose for His people ? (3:7-10) You see, God purposed to do three things for Israel.

* "To deliver them," **That was Emancipation:**

"And I am come down to deliver them," (3:8) this meant the emancipation of those who all their lifetime were subject to bondage.

* "To bring them up out," **That was Separation:**

Out of the land of Pharaoh as well as out of the hand of Pharaoh, is the word. (3:8) Anything short of that would be practically worthless.

* "To bring them up unto," **That was Possession:**

From the house of bondage to the land of fruitfulness. So God's purpose was specified (3:8) God's person was identified (3:10) for Moses was to be the human channel and then again God's power was demonstrated in the plagues that fell on Egypt. God was determined to bring them out, Pharaoh was determined to keep them in, for after all they were his work force. Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord ?" (5:2) The Lord said, "Let me introduce myself," and He did through a series of plagues and it was while under pressure from these plagues that Pharaoh suggested some compromises to the people of God. The

first two compromises came during the plague of the flies. (8:25-28) The third compromise came on the eve of the locusts. (10:8) And the final occurred during the three days of darkness. (10:24-26) Now do you recall what Moses said when he went into Pharaoh ? “ *Let us go, we pray thee, three days journey into the desert and sacrifice unto the Lord our God*,” (5:3) The Lord wanted Israel to “ *sacrifice,*” to Him, but through these compromises Pharaoh wanted Israel to “ *sacrifice,*” to Him. For notice the 4 things that Pharaoh said to the Children of Israel.

(1) STAY IN: SACRIFICE YOUR CONVICTIONS

Look if you will at (8:25) The keyword to notice is “ **in.**” Pharaoh is saying, “ *Let’s make a deal Moses, you can serve your God, but you don’t have to leave Egypt to do it. Serve the Lord but do it here.*” Now,

(a) PHARAOH WAS SUBTLE IN HIS APPROACH:

For this, was calculated to deceive anyone who was not acquainted with the character of God. At first sight it seems very reasonable and gracious, but if you look closer at these words, you will notice that they are different from God’s demand. God’s command was couched in no uncertain terms. It called for a complete separation of His people unto Himself. (5:1) The Lord spoke about a “ *three days journey into the desert,*” (5:3) But Pharaoh said, “ *don’t be so extreme, sacrifice to God in the land. Surely you can carry on your religion here as well as other people. There is room for all. Why*

this demand for separation ? Why not take common ground with your neighbours ? There is no need, surely for such extreme narrowness.” And is this not what the Devil whispers in our ears ? “ *Sacrifice to God in the land.*” You see, Egypt is a type of the world, and the world is the invisible system of evil. My Satan is the Prince of this world (Jn 14:30) the lost are the children of this world (Lk 16:8) the Christian has been delivered from this evil world (Gal 1:4) and as children of God we are in the world physically, but not of the world spiritually. (Jn 17:11-16) Indeed, we are sent into the world to win others to Christ (Jn 17:18) but it’s only as we maintain our separation from this world that we can serve others. Now the world system is committed to at least four major objectives.

1. Fortune:

Money, the world system is driven by money, it thrives on materialism.

2. Fame:

Another word, for popularity. Fame is the longing to be known to be somebody in someone else’s eyes.

3. Power:

That is, having influence, maintaining control over individuals, groups, companies, whatever.

4. Pleasure:

At its basic level, pleasure has to do with fulfilling one's sensual desires. It's the same mindset that's behind the slogan, "if it feels good do it." My do you see that worldliness, living for this world, instead of the world to come is a tremendous danger to us all ? Do you see that Pharaoh, the Devil hates out and out separation to God. He whispers "stay in." (a) But notice,

(b) MOSES WAS SOLID IN HIS ANSWER:

He says,

1. It is not PROPER to stay in:

Look at (8:26) Had Moses accepted Pharaoh's offer, Israel would have been placed on the same level with Egypt, and the God of Israel on the same level as the gods of Egypt. The Egyptians would have said, "We see no difference between us, you have your worship, and we have our worship its all alike." My is this not why we need to be holy and separate ? Is this not why Paul writes "Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate saith the Lord." (2 Cor 6:14-18) The popular cry in most religious circles today is "Get with it." God says, "Get out of it." 1.

2. It is not WISE to stay in:

Look at (8:26) You see, what was obligatory for the Israelites was objectionable to the Egyptians. The animals they intended to sacrifice such as bulls and rams were sacred in Egypt. The bull represented their god Apis and

the cow their goddess Hathor. What Moses was saying to Pharaoh was, "your compromise would be a political disaster." (Gen 46:34) To present a lamb in sacrifice to God would be offensive to the Egyptians. The Egyptians would never have understood the worship of the Israelites. My have things changed from then to now ? Preach the cross of Christ, proclaim the blood of Christ and exalt the work of Christ and the enmity of he world is at once aroused. They say "don't give us the slaughter house religion." (1 Cor 1:23) Oh, there are many who are trying to blend the sights, sounds and feel of the world with the message of the cross. The problem is this. **The message of the cross and the music, methods, and means of the world are like oil and water they don't mix.**

3. It is not BIBLICAL to stay in:

Look at (8:27) Was this not the real point of the enemy's attack ? He was seeking to neutralise the Word of God. The Lord had said "in the wilderness." To have worshipped God in the land would have been total disobedience. God had spoken, the matter was settled. What is the significance of the three days journey ? Well, from Genesis (Ch 1) onwards the third day speaks of resurrection. You see, our place is in resurrection with our Lord. (Rom 6:11 Col 3:1) My take that journey and the world will call you a fanatic, stay where you are and it will call you a hypocrite. (1)

(2) STAY NEAR: SACRIFICE YOUR CONDUCT

Did you notice Pharaoh's response in (8:28) ? If he could

not keep them in the land, he would keep them near it. You see, he knew that the music and siren voices of Egypt would soon woo them back to the place which they had left. “*Don’t go very far away,*” is one of the Devil’s favourite and most successful temptations. Avoid extremes, do not be fanatical, be sane and sensible in your spiritual life. If you really must be a Christian, don’t let it spoil your life. Be a Christian but not a “*narrow,*” one. Be a borderline believer. Straddle the fence. Is this not exactly how the Devil tempts us ? Is this not what we hear frequently today ? “*Sure you can be a Christian believer but don’t deny yourself the odd drink, or dance or disco. There are many Christians who do that and see no harm in it, don’t be so peculiar. Be saved but don’t stand out too much. Try not to be different from the world around you. Go to church on Sunday morning but no more than that. Be saved if you want to but don’t talk about Christ at work or school. Listen to the same music. Do the same things. Dress the same. Girls you keep the skirts short. Just dress immodestly so you can tempt all the fellows of the day. Don’t go too far away.*”

Now I am fully aware that’s its possible for a believer to stay away from questionable and doubtful places and still love the world for ***worldliness is a matter of the heart.*** But in this age of liberalism, I want to say it does matter how we look, where we go, whom we are with, what we do, say, and take in. You see, “*borderline Christianity,*”

(a) BRINGS TROUBLE:

For “*not very far away,*” is a dangerous place in which to

live. In the time of the old border wars between England and Scotland, the people living in the border counties had a terrible time of it. First, the Scots came pouring down devastating the northern counties of England, then the English would invade the southern counties of Scotland, and those who lived in between, on the border lands they were scarcely free from trouble. My it will be the same with you if you heed the Devil’s advice and “*not go very far away.*” I read about a little girl who fell out of bed one night. When her mother asked why, she replied, “*I went to sleep to close to where I got in.*” Is that not the sad condition of many professing Christians today ? They have gone to sleep to close to where they got in. Is that you ? Are you a borderland believer ? (a)

(b) RUINS TESTIMONY:

An old English proverb says, “*You can’t have both the penny and the bun.*” Lot wanted both. That’s why “*he pitched his tent toward Sodom.*” (Gen 13:12) “*Dwelt in Sodom,*” and “*sat in the gate of Sodom.*” (Gen 14:12 19:1) He probably became an Alderman, he was a V.I.P in Sodom. He may have said “*If old Abraham wants to live in tents, let him do it, I’ve got it made in Sodom. I am an M.L.A. in Sodom.*” My he so identified himself with the ways of Sodom that whenever he eventually tried to speak about the things of the Lord to his family, he seemed as one that mocked. Sure, he was a big person socially, politically, materially, but he lost his testimony and family in the process. Do you know what Paul said about Demas ? “*Demas hath forsaken me having loved this present world.*” (2 Tim 4:10) He had no intention in

ceasing to be a Christian, all he wanted was that he should be no longer an out and out Christian. What was it that enticed Demas back into the world ? Was it love of possessions ? Pleasure ? Pride ? Popularity ? My what has enticed you back into the world ? Materialism ? Sensual pleasure ? Fear of losing friends. Climbing the social ladder ? What is it ? What is it that has cooled your love for the Master ? Has the devil just whispered, “ **Stay near.**” (1) (2)

(3) STAY PART: SACRIFICE YOUR CHILDREN

Look if you will at (10:8-11) Do you see what’s happening ? He will now let them go the three days journey, but he wants the little ones left behind. You see, old Pharaoh knew that if the little ones were left behind, the parents would soon return.

(a) *Pharaoh said: The Family are not Going:*

1. Pharaoh says, “ It will too much for them,”

He says “ *evil is before you.*” (10:10) That is, the wilderness trip will be a dangerous trip. It would be too hard for the children. “ *Let’s make a deal Moses. You can take the men and go and serve God, but leave the rest of the family out of it.*” Now how would you, as a parent have responded to this proposal ? Would you not have been indignant and angry ? “ *What,*” you say “ *consent to leave my family in the land of Egypt, while I myself escape, never.*” Yet there is not a sense in which we have all yielded to this Satanic suggestion ? You see, we have

left Egypt by the blood of the Lamb, and the hand of the Lord, but how much effort have we made to bring our children out with us ? “ *be a Christian,*” says Satan “ *but do not force it down your children’s throat, time enough for these serious things when they grow up.*” Is that not how the Devil tempts us ? “ *If you press the claims of Christ upon you’ll drive them away, you’ll turn them off for life. It’s just too much for them.*” Is that not how the Devils argues ? And how many of us listen to him ? “ *Oh, I’m not going to make my children go to church. I’ll turn them against religion.*” Well please then, don’t ever make them take a bath with soap and water because you’ll turn them against soap and water and they’ll grow up with a terminal case of B.O. No, that’s not what turns your children against the Lord. *Do you know what turns your children against the Lord ?* It’s the inconsistencies and the hypocrisies of Mom and Dad at home. Its Mum and Dad pulling apart, the pastor over Sunday dinner. 1.

2. Pharaoh says, “ It will not matter if they go to worship,”

You see, Pharaoh’s proposal would prevent the children from attending the worship services in the wilderness. I mean, is this not so relevant? Thank God, for those of you who teach your kids the priority of worship and bring your kids to the services. Bless God, for those of you who come to the prayer meeting and cry to God for the salvation of your children. *But what about those of you who don’t?* Parents who are on their way to Canaan land but children who are still in Egyptian bondage. Do you not care ? Do you not realize that Satan wants your

family ? He wants to devastate it, destroy it and doom it to Hell. He does not want you to have a godly, Christian home. By the same token, Satan does not want you husbands and wives to get along. Men, he wants you to cast a wandering eye at another woman. Ladies, he wants you to desire another man. He wants to drive a wedge between the two of you, causing you to fight one another and see one another as enemies, instead of friends and partners. My the Devil wants to divide you, and in some cases, he has. I wonder today, do you need to take one another by the hand, get down before the Lord together and heal what's broken in your home ? (a)

(b) Moses said: The Family are not Staying:

Do you see what he said ? (10:9) Moses probably thought of his own childhood training and remembered how thoroughly his parents had done their job. Father, mother, how are you getting on with the spiritual education of you children ? Can you say with Moses “ *we will go with our sons and with our daughters ?* ” (10:9) (1) (2) (3) And Pharaoh's final compromise was this,

(4) STAY PART; SACRIFICE YOUR CAPITAL

Look at (10:24) He first sought to keep them in the land, then to keep them near the land, next, to keep part of themselves in the land, and finally when he could not succeed in any of these, Pharaoh sought to send them forth without any ability to serve the Lord. Pharaoh says, “ *Let's make a deal Moses. If you must serve the Lord, go*

ahead but leave your possessions behind. Take yourself out of Egypt but leave your money here. ” You see,

(a) PARTIAL Commitment is Suggested:

Will you underscore the word “ *only,* ” in (10:24) Do you see what Pharaoh and the Devil suggest ? The distraction of a divided heart, the attempt to make the best of both worlds, that's what he is suggesting. The flocks and herds of this pastoral people constituted the principle part of what they owned down here. They speak of our earthly possessions. Is it not right here that many of us fail ? “ *Gave yourselves to God,* ” if you must says the Devil, “ *but do not consecrate your possessions to His service.* ” You may give your life to the Lord but don't give Him your possessions. Tell me, are you heeding him ? Are you using your wealth to gratify yourself or do you see it as a sacred trust for Christ ?

My are you investing in this world or are you investing in the world to come ? It's sad but true that many believers have fallen for this compromise of the Devil. They have so tied up their wealth and resources in this world that they have practically nothing to give to the Lord. Do you recall what God charged His people with in the days of Malachi ? He charged them with robbery. My are you robbing God ? (Mal 3:8) Has God to say to you this “ *Yet ye have robbed me.* ” Are you refusing to give Him even a tenth of your income ? We sing so easily,

***Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold.***

But are you withholding ? Are you only tipping the Lord ?
Do you not realise that its not yours in the first place ? Its
all His. (a) But,

(b) TOTAL Commitment is Required:

Look at the response of Moses. (10:25-26) I like that.
“ *Not a hoof shall be left behind.*” In other words, all that
we are and have is going to be given over to the Lord.
My God demands it all, deserves it all, and desires it
all. He wants out time, our talents, and our tithes. David
prayed, “ *for all things come of thee and of thine own
have we given thee.*” (1 Chron 29:14) My is it not a
great day when we realize,

***All that I am and have
Thy gifts so free
In joy, in grief, through life
O, Lord for Thee***

My don't let the world and the devil and the coming
Antichrist have your money, your time, your talents, your
attention, your children. Nothing. “ *Not a hoof shall be
left behind.*” Is the Devil and the World saying to you ?

- 1. Stay In: Sacrifice your Convictions:**
- 2. Stay Near: Sacrifice your Conduct:**
- 3. Stay Part: Sacrifice you Children:**
- 4. Stay Some: Sacrifice your Capital:**

My resist the Devil and he will flee from you. Be like
Moses who would not lower the claims of Jehovah, be
like Daniel who would rather enter the lions den than
disobey his God, be like the three Hebrew children who
went into the fiery furnace rather than bow down to idols.
The great holiness preacher in the U.S.A. Buddy
Robinson once went to New York and was shown the
sights by some of his friends. When he got back to his
motel room he knelt down and prayed, “ *Thank you, Lord
for letting me see New York, and most of all I thank you
that I didn't see anything that I wanted.*” My ... why are
we living for that which is temporary, that which is
transient, that which is passing ? Is it not better to live
with eternity's values in view ? “ *But he that doeth the
will of God abideth for ever.*” (2:17) Do you see the
contrast ? A life lived for time, and a life lived for eternity.
That which is passing, and that which is permanent.

***The stars shine over the land, the stars shine over sea
The stars look up to God above, the stars look down on
me:
The stars will live for a million years, for a million years
and a day:
But God and I shall live and love when the stars have
passed away.***

Today in this country and other lands, the name D.L.
Moody will be used in illustration after illustration.
Moody was a man who shook two continents for God. On
the tombstone of D.L. Moody they put these words, “ *But
he that doeth will of God abideth for ever.*” Will you say
and mean it this ? “ *Only one life twill soon be past,*”

