

PLAYING MARBLES WITH DIAMONDS

EXODUS 32:1-14, 1 CORINTHIANS 10:7

Text:

Introduction:

We are living in a day of depreciation and devaluation. We live in an age of sham, and make believe, lowered values, marked down prices, and bargain browsers.

The problem with this philosophy is that we have allowed it into our spiritual lives, and into our churches.

Our nation is crumbling because our homes have been devalued, what once was a man's castle has become only a place to change clothes. Once a man was the head of the home and the woman the heart. Now we have homes with two heads and no heart.

Marriage has been reduced to joke and is no longer a lifetime contract. We have cheap marriages, and cheap homes because there are too many people who lack the integrity to keep any contract. Behind all of our trouble is cheap character.

We see in the text that we have just read that while Moses was up in the mountain receiving the law from God, the people made a request to Aaron. They had grown bored and tired of waiting for Moses to come back, so they ask Aaron to make them another god that they could follow.

Please notice with me that no price was too high to see this come about either, because they were willing to take their own gold and give it to see this come about. How sad, but true, there are still those today who are so sincere, but are sincerely wrong.

So Aaron took the gold, melted it, and formed it into a calf for the people to follow and worship. Then the Bible goes on to say that, "when Aaron saw it that he built an altar before it, and made proclamation to have a feast.

So when that feast day arrives we find the people rose up early and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings, sat down to eat, drink and rose up to play.

I believe that we can see and learn some things from this story as to why they were and some today are "Playing Marbles With Diamonds."

1. THE CAUSE OF PLAYING MARBLES WITH DIAMONDS

A. Inconsistent (see 24:7)

(Exo 24:7 KJV) And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient.

Only a few days before, in this very place, the people heard the voice of God speaking to them out of the midst of the fire, "Thos shall not make to thyself any graven image.

Did they not themselves solemnly enter into a covenant with God, that they would do all that God had said to them and would be obedient?

Yet before they stirred from the place where this covenant had been solemnly made, the brake an express command, in defiance of an express threatening.

1. This shows that the law is to bring knowledge of sin, but is not the cure of sin.

B. Impatient (vs 1)

(Exo 32:1 KJV) And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

C. Idle Time (Vs 6)

(Exo 32:6 KJV) And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

1. An idle mind is the Devils workshop.
2. Idle hands accomplishes nothing.

(Eccl 10:18 KJV) By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.

3. Compared often time to Sodom

(Ezek 16:49 KJV) Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

2. THE CONSEQUENCES OF PLAYING MARBLES WITH DIAMONDS

A. Cheap concept of God

(Psa 50:21 KJV) These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes.

1. The world says God is just like us.

- a. A grandfatherly man bouncing his children on his knee and winking at our wickedness.
- b. The Man upstairs.
- c. Big Buddy in the sky
- d. JC

Illustration:

I read the other day of a church related college skit of God in swimming trunks, smoking, and engaged in profanity.

That results in a generation incapable of reverence and worship.

B. Cheap Bible

1. The living book of the dead has now become the dead book of the living.
2. Results in numerous versions.

C. Cheap Concept of Salvation and Grace.

1. Salvation is free but didn't come cheap.
2. Assurance of Salvation is no license to sin.
3. Salvation is the costliest item on earth.

Illustration:

It cost our Lord everything to provide it, and we should be willing to lose everything to possess it. True, salvation is free, but when one becomes a believer he also becomes a disciple and that cost him everything he has. Discipleship was never put in the fine print in our salvation contract.

D. Cheap Christians (1 Peter 2:9)

(1 Pet 2:9 KJV) But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye

should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

1. Must remember that you are:

- a. Chosen
- b. Royal preisthood
- c. Holy
- d. Peculiar people

E. Cheap Churches

1. What started as a sheep fold now looks like a zoo.

F. Cheap Religious Music

1. We have traded hymns for hootenannies.

We have seen the cause of and the results of playing marbles with diamonds, but what is the cure.

3. THE CURE FOR PLAYING MARBLES WITH DIAMONDS.

A. Wait on the Lord.

(Psa 37:7 KJV) Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

(Psa 37:9 KJV) For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

(Psa 37:9 KJV) For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

(Isa 40:31 KJV) But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

B. Stay Busy

Illustration:

As the song goes, "We'll work till Jesus Comes."

C. Be Consistent

1. In Prayer
2. To Church
3. In Reading & Memorizing the Word of God.
4. In witnessing.

Close:

In a day when tragedy has become comedy, we play fast and loose with eternal issues. The pearl of great price is not cheap.

Years ago in that part of Africa where diamonds in rough form were plentiful, a traveler watched some young boys playing. Closer investigation revealed that they were playing marbles with diamonds. God forgive us today that we handle His treasures as though they were trifles. It is no time to play marbles with diamonds.