

# THE GOOD ENOUGH CHRISTIAN

## NUMBERS 32

Text:

Introduction:

Growing up I used to play baseball. And when I was younger my dad would show me the basic of playing baseball. He showed me how to step toward the pitcher when I would swing at a pitch. He showed me how to get down and field a ground ball that was hit to me.

One day after practice my dad began to tell me some things that I could do a little different, and I said to my dad that I thought that I had done that particular thing good enough. My mom was in the car turned and looked at me and said that is his problem, he doesn't try to do the best that he can do, he just wants to do whatever is good enough.

These people in our text that we have read about this evening didn't want to stay in the wilderness, but this place was good enough. They knew where they were supposed to be on the other side of Jordan. They said in verse 5, "Wherefore, said they, if we have found grace in thy sight, let this land be given unto thy servants for a possession, and bring us not over

Jordan." But they decided that this place was good enough for them and wanted to stay there.

Tonight let me say that we have too many just good enough preachers. Not willing to sell out entirely, and take the risk, to be misunderstood, to take the stand, to emphasize the soul winning, and the bus ministry that sometimes irritates the well to do member. They don't want to be ungodly or new evangelical, they just want to be good enough. They preach good enough sermons to good enough congregations, and pastor a good enough church, that think that they do a good enough job for God.

Let me say something this evening. If we are going to influence this sin sick society, if we are going to be a righteous remnant that God can use to bring revival to America, if we are going to be spiritual salt to hold back the corrupting forces of evil that surround us and our nation, the job will not be done by good enough Christians. That job can only be done by sold out Christians, giving everything to Jesus Christ, saying I'll cross the Jordan River, I'll go into the promise land, I'll be everything that God wants me to be.

Notice with me this evening

# 1. GOD'S DESIGN

A. Planned on them crossing the Jordan River.

Illustration:

This is not a picture of a Christian dying, but rather a Christian moving from salvation to being surrendered.

1. We need to surrender completely.

(Rom 12:1 KJV) "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

2. We need to cross from just doing enough, to selling out to His will for our life.

# 2. THEIR DESIRE

A. They wanted to stay right where they were.

B. They wanted what they could see instead of what God would supply.

Illustrations:

May have to give up a secure job

Preachers need to preach and not give some little sermonette, to christianettes, who smoke cigarettes

Get out of my comfort zone and confront someone about their spiritual condition.

Why rock the boat.

C. Tried to make it spiritual (vs. 19)

(Num 32:19 KJV) "For we will not inherit with them on yonder side Jordan, or forward; because our inheritance is fallen to us on this side Jordan eastward."

1. Tried to make it sound like it was the will of God.

### **3. THEIR DUTY**

A. To influence others to fight (vs. 7)

(Num 32:7 KJV) "And wherefore discourage ye the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the LORD hath given them?"

1. Moses reminds them of the past discouragement. (vss. 8-15)

2. Nobody has any business discouraging the people of God from crossing the Jordan, and going into the promise land.

Illustration:

Spiritual firemen, trying to put out the fire in the lives of people

Preachers sometimes discourage other men from building churches

When I was considering beginning this work I began to share the vision that I have for this ministry, and some smile or grin and say God bless you son. You'll find out what it is like after you have been in the ministry for a while. Others thought it was their spiritual responsibility to set me down and tell me why none of the things that I can see for this church would ever take place. God help them.

Illustration:

Little boy shooting at the moon with a BB gun

B. Duty to be involved. (vs 15)

(Num 32:15 KJV) "For if ye turn away from after him, he will yet again leave them in the wilderness; and ye shall destroy all this people."

1. It was a sin not to be involved. (vs 23)

(Num 32:23 KJV) "But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out."

## **4. THEIR DEFICIENCY**

- A. Were exposed unnecessarily to their enemy.

1. Those who don't sell out always are more vulnerable to the enemy to the enemy.

2. Was still in the world.

Illustration:

Too many preachers hanging around the east side of Jordan. They may go to pastor's school, and other seminar. They will go to the Sword conference, and the SBC conference.

- B. Missed many blessings.

1. Had to build the things that were already built on the other side of Jordan.

(Num 32:16 KJV) "And they came near unto him, and said, We will build sheepfolds here for our cattle, and cities for our little ones:"

C. Excluded their families from victory.

1. We need to allow our families to see the victories that God brings and allows.
2. Their faith will increase.