

FALL HIMSELF INTO HIS OWN PIT

PROVERBS 28:10; MATTHEW 18:1-9

Text: Proverbs 28:10

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¹⁰Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit: but the upright shall have good *things* in possession.

Introduction:

1. ILLUSTRATION (VS. 2-5) – “A LITTLE CHILD”

Matthew 18:2-5

²And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, ³And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

We must not be childish but rather child-like (1 Cor. 13:11)

- A Child Has Eager Anticipation

A child is filled with wide-eyed wonder and awe. You throw a child up in the air or bounce them on your knee most of them want to do it again and again.

A little child wants whatever they can have, whatever is for them. When you come home from the store, they excitedly ask, “what did you bring me?”

- A Child Is Trusting

A child comes with simple trust, not asking questions, without fear or hesitation.

Illustration:

Too many of us are like fellow who took his fist plane ride. His friends were eager to hear how it went, asked him if he enjoyed the flight. The man said, It wasn't as bad as I thought it might be, but I'll tell you this, I never put all my weight down.

- A Child Is Humble

With a child, there are no pretenses, no boastings; they come just as they are. What you see is what you get.

- A Child Is Confident

A child has absolute confidence that everything is going to be all right – that his or her parents will take care of it, fix it, or make it better.

Note:

This is not just speaking about children, but rather those who come to the Lord like children. (“as” vs. 3-4)

Matthew 18:3-4

³ And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

This is comparative not conclusive.

2. EXHORTATION (VS. 6) – “A MILLSTONE HANGED ABOUT HIS NECK”

Matthew 18:6

⁶ But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and *that* he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

We see here and we see more later the seriousness of offending on of these little ones.

Why such strong words.

Because of their Trust, Humility, and Confidence, they can be led astray, so easily.

3. VERIFICATION (VS. 7) – “MUST BE THAT OFFENSES COME”

Matthew 18:7

⁷ Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!

Offenses will come. Knowing that may we not be so easily offended.

4. MORTIFICATION (VS. 7-9) – “WOE ... CUT THEM OFF ... PLUCK IT OUT”

Matthew 18:7-9

⁷ Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh! ⁸ Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast *them* from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. ⁹ And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

How is it that we offend or become offended?

- Directly Causing One To Sin

Example: Adam and Eve

Genesis 3:6

⁶ And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

- Abusing Our Liberty

1 Corinthians 8:7-9

⁷ Howbeit *there is* not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat *it* as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled. ⁸ But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse. ⁹ But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.

1 Peter 2:15-16

¹⁵ For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: ¹⁶ As free, and not using *your* liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

Close:

As we have seen it is a dangerous thing to offend or cause one to stumble.

Also, let's not be so easily offended.