

Series: Unlikely Heroes

PHINEHAS ... WAS ZEALOUS FOR
MY SAKE
NUMBERS 25

Text: Numbers 25:11

Numbers 25:11

¹¹ Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy.

Introduction:

We find an individual in this passage that is certainly not well known.

Despite his little known status he was greatly used by God.

Note:

1. A TERRIBLE SIN (VS. 1-2)

Numbers 25:1-2

¹ And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. ² And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.

Israel had been encamped in Shittim for considerable time and while there some of them began to commit fornication and whoredom with the daughters of Moab.

They also began to worship their gods.

Note also:

Numbers 25:6

⁶ And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

But even while the judges were meeting, and there was weeping at the door of the Tent of meeting, because of the sin of Israel, one of the children of Israel boldly and blatantly brought into the camp a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses and all who were gathered before God.

This man had no shame in the matter.

He was proud of his sinful companion and deeds companion.

Prior to this it would appear that all the 'sinning' occurred outside the camp.

So this was an increase in offence by the introduction of idolatrous behavior into the camp of God and the people of Israel.

Lesson:

We must remember associations often determine our actions.

No doubt at first they would have never thought about worshipping and idols, they were just interested and involved in the fornication and the sexual immorality. Before long no doubt they began to attend the celebrations involving idol worship, and soon they were involved in the practice of idolatry.

Their desire for fun and pleasure caused them to loosen their convictions.

Sadly many today have relaxed their standards to justify and satisfy their wrong desires.

Note not only “A Terrible Sin” but also:

2. A TROUBLED GOD (VS. 3-5)

Numbers 25:3-5

³ *And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and **the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.*** ⁴ *And the LORD said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the LORD against the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel.* ⁵ *And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that were joined unto Baalpeor.*

Note the punishment that God told Moses to do to those who had got involved in this idol worship.

Note this punishment was two-fold.

- Some were executed
- Twenty-four thousand others died by the plague

Again we must remember that God hates sin.

Note not only “A Terrible Sin” and “A Troubled God” but also:

3. A TRUSTWORTHY SERVANT (VS. 6-9)

Numbers 25:6-9

⁶ And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. ⁷ And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand; ⁸ And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel. ⁹ And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.

Numbers 25:11

¹¹ Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy.

Note:

A. His Description

He Was Zealous For God.

Why is zeal important?

- God desires Passionate Christians

Titus 2:14

¹⁴ *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, **zealous of good works.***

- Protects Us From Sin

When did David get into trouble ... when he decided to sit out of the battle?

When we begin to lose our zeal for God ... things become routine ... before long we are not as involved like we once were ... next thing people get out of church and their life is no different from someone who is lost.

B. His Deed

Numbers 25:7-8

⁷ *And **when Phinehas**, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, **saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand;** ⁸ **And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly.** So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.*

Note

- He Didn't Delay
- He Didn't Discuss
- He Was Direct
- He Was Diligent
- He Was Decisive

C. The Deliverance

Numbers 25:8

⁸ *And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. **So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.***

Because of his actions the lives of many was saved.

Note not only “A Terrible Sin, A Troubled God and a Trustworthy Servant” but lastly:

4. A TERRIFIC REWARD (VS. 10-13)

Numbers 25:10-13

¹⁰ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ¹¹ Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy. ¹² Wherefore say, **Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace:** ¹³ **And he shall have it, and his seed after him,** even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.

God rewarded his zeal with peace and perpetual priesthood for his descendants.

Close:

We too should be like Phinehas and take the opportunities that present themselves to stand up for truth and right.

We don't do it so that God will bless us but God does bless and honor our obedience.