

THIS SIDE JORDAN EASTWARD

NUMBERS 32

Text: Numbers 32:19

Introduction:

The Israelites had conquered the country possessed by Og, king of Bashan, and Sihon, king of the Amorites; and the tribes of Reuben and Gad, having great quantities of cattle, thought that the pasture country there would be suitable for them and for their flocks.

Their choice of land was one very suitable for sheep. They then ask Moses for that country. Moses objected.

These people didn't want to stay in the wilderness, but this place was good enough. They knew that God's desire was for them to cross over 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 and go no further and fight no more battles.

Tonight let me say that we have too many just good enough preachers who are content to stay put and go

no further. Not willing to sell out entirely, to take the stand, to emphasize separation, soul winning, and the bus ministry that sometimes irritates the well to do member. They don't want to be ungodly or new evangelical, but they are content to go no further.

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 the task set before us 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, and 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:

Is not a picture of a Christian dying, but rather a Christian from being saved 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."

Illustration:

We often sing words that we are not willing to do.

All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give.
I will ever love and trust Him in His presence daily live

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

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.

Illustration:

Selfishness is never worse than when it puts on the garb of religion

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.

One pastor just the other day asked me if I had discovered that not everyone loved me and was behind me. I said to him love me or hate me hasn't caused me to have any less vision and desire to see the work move on.

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."

a. Sin of idleness and self indulgence

b. Sin of selfishness and unbrotherliness

c. Sin of untruthfulness

Illustration:

If any man has been converted, by that very conversion he is bound to serve the Lord. If he has been baptized as a believer by that baptism he declared that he was dead to the world and buried to it that henceforth he might walk in newness of life. When a individual joins a church by that act and deed he pledges himself to do all he can for its growth and its prosperity, and failing to do so makes him a deceiver.

A do nothing professor is merely a nominal member,
and a nominal member is a real hindrance

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.

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.

Close:

God help us not to be content to stay still east of
Jordan