The Costly Effects Of Defeatism

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday May 5th, 2019

Text: Num. 13:26-33 *(Heb. 3:11-19; 4:1-2, 11)*

### Intro

1. The word of God contains examples of characters known for their great or not-so-great deeds!
   1. Shammua
   2. Shaphat
   3. Igal
   4. Palti
   5. Gaddiel
   6. Gaddi
   7. Ammiel
   8. Sethur
   9. Nahbi
   10. Geuel
   11. ***Do you remember these names?***
2. What if we add in the names, Joshua & Caleb? ***What about now?***
3. The Scriptures provide examples of courage and faithfulness, but also examples of defeatists.
   1. Individuals who gave up before even trying.
4. Defeatism is something that many Christians give in to – with costly effects!
   1. Defeatism defined:
      1. “The fact of being defeated; a person who too readily accepts or expects defeat.” (Webster’s New World College Dictionary)
   2. Some people fully expect that defeat is inevitable and give up before they start.
5. As a man thinks within himself, so he will become (or already is!):
   1. *Prov. 4:23:* “Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.”
   2. *Prov. 23:7:* “For as he thinks within himself, so he is.”
   3. *Mt. 6:21:* “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
   4. *Lk. 6:45:* “The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.”
   5. II Cor. 4:16; Gal. 6:9: We are not to lose heart!
6. Could it be that sometimes we lose heart and shrink back from our duties as Christians?
7. Do we exhibit the attitude of the Ten Spies? (Num. 13:31)

#### Examples Of Defeatism

* 1. The Ten Spies
     1. Num. 13:26-33
        1. As soon as the spies saw the giants in the land and the fortified cities, they felt defeated already.
        2. Never giving God the chance to show His power! (Deut. 1:29-32)
        3. The Ten Spies are listed in *13:4-15* – the names from Intro – Who remembers them? We remember their cowardice!
     2. God’s attitude toward people who not only give up, but don’t even try:
        1. *Num. 14:11-12:* God wanted to destroy not just the defeatists, but also those that listened to them!
  2. The One-Talent Man
     1. Mt. 25:18, 24-25:
        1. He hid the talent, not even trying to gain more!
     2. God’s attitude toward the man who didn’t try:
        1. *Mt. 25:26-30:* He called him a “Wicked,” “Lazy” & “Worthless” slave. He was cast into the outer darkness as punishment!
  3. Defeatism should not be a trait of God’s people and is condemned by God!

#### Costly Effects Of Defeatism

* 1. Israel
     1. 40 years of wandering in the wilderness – Num. 14:33
        1. The rest of the people were overcome with the ten spies’ defeatist attitude instead of by the courage and confidence of Joshua & Caleb.
     2. The defeatists did not enter the promised land and died in wilderness
        1. Num. 14:28-35: The people who were swayed by the bad report had to wander the desert and not see the Promised Land (Heb. 3:11, 16-19)
        2. Num. 14:36-37: The ten spies were destroyed for their unfaithfulness!
        3. God wanted them to trust in Him after all He did for them!
  2. The One-Talent Man
     1. He was called, “Wicked” & “Lazy” – Mt. 25:26-27
     2. He lost what he had – Mt. 25:28-29
     3. He was called, “Worthless” & cast into outer darkness – Mt. 25:30
  3. Costly Effects of Defeatism Today:
     1. One fails to develop fully and move forward (Heb. 10:35-39)
     2. The spread of the truth is held back (II Tim. 1:7-13)
     3. Souls that may have been saved are lost (II Tim. 2:24-26; Jude 22-23)
     4. Defeatist Christians will not be able to enter the eternal rest with God! (Heb. 3:12-14; 4:1-2, 11) – Need to trust in God, not have unbelief!
  4. Defeatism has costly effects – can cost one their soul’s rest with God!

#### Examples Of The Opposite Spirit

* 1. Caleb & Joshua
     1. Num. 13:30; 14:6-10, 24, 30: Caleb had a “different spirit.” Their attitude was one of faith in God and courage to take on His enemies to grasp the promise made to them! They would enter into the Promised Land!
  2. Abraham
     1. Rom. 4:19-22: Abraham *(4:16)* did not lose heart in the face of the seemingly impossible, but his faith grew stronger – Credited as righteousness!
  3. The Apostles
     1. Their charge was a great one!
        1. Acts 1:8: They had no idea at the time what was in store for them!
     2. There was only 12 of them – yet how many Christians in the early church?
     3. We can see their total determination:
        1. Acts 4:19-20; 5:29: In the face of persecution, beatings, and imprisonment, their faith was such that they had to “obey God rather than men!”
  4. The Apostle Paul
     1. He had a tremendous sense of responsibility
        1. Rom. 1:14-16: He was not ashamed of the gospel!
        2. I Cor. 9:16: His life was devoted to preaching the gospel!
     2. His absolute confidence:
        1. II Cor. 12:7-10: He had asked God three times to remove the “thorn in the flesh” but Jesus told him, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness” (II Cor. 12:7-9).
        2. He was confident in Christ, that though weak, he would be strong (v.10)! *(The Israelites needed that confidence!)*
  5. God’s people are to have bold faith and courage in the face of adversity!

## Conclusion

1. The defeatist attitude is one who “shrinks back” and God condemns such attitude.
   1. Heb. 10:37-39: “We are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.”
2. We need to have a strong faith, one that is not ashamed and full of confidence in God (Heb. 3:14).
   1. The only thing we surrender is our Self to Jesus! (Mt. 11:28-30; II Cor. 10:5; Gal. 2:20)
   2. Jesus is our example in that as well – Mt. 26:39, 42: “Not My will, but Your will be done!”
   3. God wants us to trust in Him, to not be unbelieving, but believing unto the salvation of our souls! Surrender to the One who holds our souls in His hands!
3. We need to work mightily for the Lord for we know not the hour of His return!
   1. Eccl. 9:10: “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.”
   2. Col. 3:23-24: We work for Christ (and need to remain firm in our faith till the end – Heb. 3:13-15; Rev. 2:10)!
4. Do you act like defeatists – like the non-memorable ten spies?
5. Do you have the faith of Joshua & Caleb, and the apostles?
6. God will reward the faithful and punish the unfaithful!
7. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
8. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
9. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!