

The Tragic Consequences of Mistakes

Jer 10:1-16 (V10)

Introduction

- A. Mistakes may have tragic consequences - cannot be corrected.
- B. Illustrations:
 - 1. July 6, 1944 -- Joshua Millard and Joshua Allen swimming. Clowning around called for "help." Later called and drowned.
 - 2. March 22, 1993 -- Three men fishing early morning before light. Went to shore - high speed - to pick up a fourth. Hit the dock. Steve Olin and Tim Crews died, Bob Ojeda seriously wounded. Important players of Cleveland Indians.
- C. Spiritual mistakes worse of all.
 - 1. They affect -- often tragically -- all areas of our life.
 - 2. We inevitably carry the tragic effects into eternity.
 - 3. All of us are making such mistakes --
 - a. These mistakes are causing great damage.
 - b. These mistakes are depriving us of our spiritual joy/power.
- D. Today: *The Most Serious Mistake A Person Can Make. IT IS TO MISUNDERSTAND WHO GOD IS!*

I. GOD IS A PERSON -- NOT SOME LAW OR POWER.

- A. God is a person -- He is alive, He thinks, plans, makes decisions, has emotions, loves, can be angry, can be hurt, He's aware of all.
- B. God is the most Wonderful Person. Every aspect of His Person, Love, Kindness, Wisdom, Righteousness and Power are totally beyond any human comprehension.
 - 1. He does not need but wants fellowship with us on highest level.
 - 2. His plans and desires for each of us are beyond comprehension.
 - 3. He desires to meet fully every basic desire in our being.
 - 4. He seeks to give Himself to us without reservation and thereby bring us complete fulfillment, joy and progress.
- C. Our problem: *WE REALLY DO NOT KNOW HIM CORRECTLY.*
- D. Terrible sin not -- to treat Him as a Person.
 - 1. When we do not acknowledge His presence and will.
 - 2. When we think/act as though He had no feelings.
 - 3. When we treat Him as though He were irrelevant.
 - 4. When we talk, act & sing as though He were not present.
 - 5. When we are rude, refuse to talk to Him.
 - 6. When we do not take time for Him.
 - 7. When we come in surrender only when in trouble - PAGAN GOD
 - 8. We damage relationship -- He has to withdraw -- we suffer/blame.

II. GOD IS A SPIRITUAL PERSON -- NOT SOME "CHANGLING."

(To borrow a term from “Startrek.” (Odo))

A. God is Holy -- Always does what is Right.

- 1. He seeks our holiness so He can fellowship/bless us.**
- 2. Because He is holy we can trust Him.**
- 3. Central key to holiness is HONESTY.**
- 4. Must make choices of daily priority -- refuse all unrighteousness.**
- 5. Our compromise breaks fellowship -- live without, love, and power.**

B. God is Love -- Compassionate/Giving in All His Ways.

- 1. Love is opposite to selfish -- self-centeredness.**
- 2. Always will treat us as a person -- with value and rights.**
- 3. Because He is love He can be trusted.**
- 4. Our selfishness breaks fellowship -- live without love, joy, power.**

C. God is Truth -- Faithful in All His Ways.

- 1. He is always honest -- with no hidden agendas.**
- 2. Because He is Truth/Faithful -- He can be trusted.**
- 3. Our unfaithfulness breaks fellowship - live without love, joy, power.**

III. God is a Spiritual Person of Infinite Greatness - Not a Limited Deity.

A. Creation -- created all things by speaking.

B. Providence -- maintains all things.

C. Redemption -- satisfied perfect justice -- vicarious power.

D. Salvation -- only One Who can work on our spirit -- meet our needs.

E. Terrible sin not to respond in Faith -- Phil 4:6,7.

IV. God is a Spiritual Person, Infinitely Great, the Living God - Not a God that is Static and Uninvolved in Human Affairs.

A. Text -- Living God as Eternal King.

B. Illustrations of His greatness.

- 1. Joshua 3:9,10**
- 2. David -- I Sam 17:26,36**
- 3. Church -- II Cor 3:3.**

Conclusion: We need healing prayer to know how fully we have misunderstood God -- and to be able to repent.