

Sunday Morning Message

May 28, 2017

Squandering What Was Handed Down to You (A Memorial Day Message)

Text – 2 Kings 11:1 - 13

Congregational Reading – 2 Kings 11:9 – 11

Introduction

One of the saddest things to see is somebody who squanders (wastes or loses) what was given to them from someone else. We see it often in this pleasure-seeking society that we live in today. A past generation starts out with nothing, but determines to work hard, fight, and save so that they can pass on something of value to the next generation; but what often happens is the next generation fails to fully appreciate the sacrifice that was made for them and they waste that which was provided for them. *

Illustrate – I was taught in business school that a common pitfall that happens to many small family businesses is that in the third generation, everything goes downhill. Why? The first generation started with nothing, but through hard work, sweat, and sacrifice they build something of value. The next generation observes the struggle and even experienced some of the sacrifice in the early years and has some appreciation for it. But, often when the third generation comes along, little is remembered of the price that grand-dad paid, and these often spoiled grand-children know nothing but the fruit of all of the hard work of the previous generations. They fail to appreciate all that went into giving them what they were handed down, and they squander it.

Illustrate – this happens spiritually as well. First generation Christians know what they were saved out of, and they have a great deal of appreciation for the grace of God that was given them; but, unfortunately the succeeding generations often progressively lose appreciation for the spiritual principles that Grand-dad stood for. Each succeeding generation becomes less zealous, less faithful, and more like the world around them.

As we think of Memorial Day, we think of how our forefathers fought and died to give us the freedom, the principles, and the prosperity that we enjoy today. However, unless we determine to work hard, fight, and sacrifice to keep those ideals alive, we will forever lose them.

Transition – In our text today, we see that in one generation Solomon squandered much of what his father David had fought for.

Read 1 Kings 11:1 – 13

Illustrate – Pastor Horton often preached about the downfall of preachers – Money, Maids, and Modernism; Females, Finances, and the Fundamentals; Dames, Dollars, and Doctrines; Ladies,

Lucre, and Liberalism. He was certainly right about that, and it certainly applied here to Solomon.

Let's look at what was handed down to Solomon:

1 David wholeheartedly loved the Lord.

"And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will." (Acts 13:22)

It was David's love for the Lord and his zeal for the Word of God that provided all of the blessings that Israel would enjoy. Though David was not perfect, His main desire in life was fulfilling the will of God.

2 David prepared and provided for the building of the Temple. (1 Chronicles 22)

What did you start out with? What did your parents provide you with?

3 David fought to remove all of Israel's enemies. (1 Chronicles 17:11; 18: 1 – 11)

Most of us enjoy living in a nation that is without war. Men and women have fought and continue to fight and bleed and die so that we can enjoy our freedom and tranquility.

All Solomon had to do was build the Temple and maintain what was given to him. But, he squandered it. He allowed all kinds of evil to creep into Israel, and as a result, the judgment of God fell, and the kingdom that David handed him, was lost.

Why did this happen to Solomon, and why is the same thing happening to America today?

1 He Pursued Pleasure Instead of Upholding Principles

Solomon knew better. He was given more wisdom than any other man, including his father; but, he wasted the wisdom that God gave him because of his pursuit of pleasure. We already read about his love for "strange women", which in this context were women that were not Israelites – they were not of the same faith.

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" (2 Corinthians 6:14)

The Bible describes another type of "strange women", equally as dangerous:

A strange woman is also a woman that is not your wife:

It is used that way 9 times in the Book of Proverbs.

God gives us wisdom:

"To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words;" (Proverbs 2:16)

Read Proverbs 5

Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon probably after he made these mistakes, and in it he shares the folly of his experiences. (Ecclesiastes 2:1 – 3; 10 – 11.)

2 He Pursued Learning and Neglected Laboring (Ecclesiastes 1:12 – 18)

"And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh." (Ecclesiastes 12:12)

Education and learning is awesome if it is used to benefit others.

Festus said to Paul: "...*much learning doth make thee mad.*" (Acts 26:24)

Paul stated that "*knowledge puffeth up*" (1 Corinthians 8:1)

David was a farmer and a fighter. He probably didn't have much education, but God used him in an awesome way.

Illustrate – Bob Fenton, Pastor Clark

We have more professional students in America today than ever before, yet we are achieving far less as a nation.

3 He Pursued Personal Wealth but Eventually Neglected the Well-Being of Israel.

Compare 2 Chronicles 9:1 – 13; 10:4

Solomon started out using his wealth to be a blessing to his people, but eventually he got greedy and began taking more and more from the people, which eventually caused the northern kingdom to revolt against him. Our government is doing the same to us today.

Conclusion

Memorial Day is a time to remember what was done for us in the past, but I believe the greatest way to do that is by preserving what was handed down to us by the previous generation. The men and women who worked and sacrificed and fought and died to make this nation the great place that it is are rolling in the graves today when they see how we are squandering what they gave us.

Let us remember them and honor them by upholding the same principles of righteousness that they fought to give us; by working just as hard as they did to provide for those who come behind us; and let us be willing to fight as they did to keep this nation "One Nation Under God".