

Is It Close Enough?

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Is It Close Enough? Numbers 32:1-7

The Lord has a plan for each of us. He wants all of us to be a Christian. He wants all of us to be Christlike. None of us will be completely Christlike this side of heaven. But it is still the goal for us to be Christlike. The Lord desires us to live victorious Christian lives. He has given us all that we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). We received that at salvation.

We must be willing to surrender our will and desires to follow the Lord. We must be willing to make whatever changes we need to in our life to be Christlike. The OT has illustrations for us from the Hebrew Nation as examples for us today. The Promised Land is a literal place, but it also has principles for us today. It is a symbol of what the Lord has for us.

These 2 tribes that we read about in our text refuse to enter the Promised Land. A place symbolizing victory and rest in the Christian life. The reason many Christians don't have spiritual victory or rest in the life is that they will not enter the Lord's Promised Land for them. These 2 tribes were more concerned for what they possessed than what the Lord wanted them to have.

Let's see what we can learn from this.

1. The dilemma
 - a. Walked by faith, not by sight
 - i. Had great possessions
 - ii. Had faith in their possessions

1. 1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

- b. Walked by human reason, not by faith
 - i. God can't take as good of care of them, as they thought they could
 - 1. Great place for their cattle
 - 2. Lot chose the same way
 - a. Lost his wife
 - b. Lost his children
 - c. Lost his reputation
 - ii. God's way is always best
 - iii. God 's way always brings His blessing
- c. Walked be loss, not by gain
 - i. Forfeited all that the Lord had for them
 - ii. Finally lost the cattle
 - 1. Will show you that later in the sermon from the Bible

2. The deed

- a. The Lord's will was the Promised Land
 - i. Not close to the Promised Land
 - ii. Not visiting the Promised Land
 - iii. Living in the Promised Land
- b. The Lord's will for us
 - i. Saved
 - ii. Surrendered

1. Whatever He wants
 2. Wherever He wants
 3. Whenever He wants
- iii. Serving

c. The Promised Land

- i. Described
 1. Land flowing with milk and honey
 2. Grapes carried out on a staff between 2 men
- ii. Discerned
 1. Milk comes from cattle
 2. Honey comes from plants
 - a. Cattle eat plants
- iii. Detail
 1. God provided all that was needed
 2. He promises to do that for us today

3. The destiny

- a. Lost living in the Promised Land
 - i. Lost the full blessing from God
 - ii. Lost the full enjoyment of living in the Promised Land
- b. Lost the cattle
 - i. Mark 5:1-19 maniac of Gadara
 - ii. Jesus cast out demons
 - iii. They went into pigs
- c. Lost what they could have had
 - i. Are we really surrendered to the Lord's will
 - ii. Are we truly willing to do whatever He asks