

## Podcast 6

Focus Statement: Small **concessions** have **deadly** direction and reflect a **divided** heart.

James 1:12-15 – shows the progression of sin – (Temptation is not sin.)

- 1) dragged away and enticed by our own evil desire
- 2) desire is conceived
- 3) desire gives birth to sin
- 4) and sin grows up and gives birth to death.

James 1:12-15 is a great example of how **desensitization** works and the dangers that it leads to.

Another important aspect to this process is that when you sin you make a decision and there is no way to get around the fact that when you make a decision that are **consequences**, good or bad.

\* God isn't to **blame** for where we are at, we are.

Remember the focus statement and remember the story of Caleb. Caleb whole-heartedly followed the Lord. Remember that wholeheartedness does not mean perfection.

Israel's divided heart ultimately led them on a path of small concessions that had deadly direction.

- (2 Kings 17:18 & 22-23)
- Israel's small concessions led them to a place of total captivity.

The Lord was so angry with His people and that He **removed** them from their Promised land and from His **sight**.

- Sin consumed one generation after another until total captivity.
- That can happen in any of our lives and our families.

The fact is that everything we do, good or bad, affects our children.

- When you tell kids to not do something, but you are doing it yourself, your argument is completely invalid for them.
- If you want to have children who are strong Christ followers, then you have to live it out.
- Another aspect is that you as parents can do everything you can to be a Godly parent and live life as a Christ follower, but that will not take away your child's ability as they get older to make their own decisions.

God's people were **linked** to their past and caught in a **cycle** of sin that took them away from their Promised land to a place of total **captivity**. (Vs. 18 and 23)

- God is mercy and His mercy endures forever.
- 2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

2 Kings 17:24 - 29

- God used a pagan king to remove His people from their land because they were completely consumed with sin. They had walked away from God and all His ways.
- This is a bad place for any of us to be because then we are walking out of the protective covering of God.
  - *Zech. 2:8 – Israel was the apple of His eye – He promised He would deal with those who touched them*

And it was so, at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they did not fear the Lord; therefore the Lord sent lions among them, which killed some of them. (2 Kings 17:25)

**God will do whatever it takes to have relationship with man no matter who they are.**

The king of Assyria sends for one of the priests who had been removed from the land of Samaria.

- 2 Timothy 4:3-4
- When we want to continue living according to our own desires we can get really good at finding people to tell us what we want to hear.
  - They did not want to know God.
  - They wanted to do what they needed to do to get the lions (God) off their back.
  - Once everything smooths out or blows over, they are right back to business as usual – living life apart from God – because their original seeking Him wasn't ever based on a desire to know Him and have relationship with Him.

The difference depended on the motives of their heart. It is very easy to turn to God when we have a tragedy in life. It is not nearly as easy to develop and grow a relationship with God, because it takes work and time.

The pagan nations were taught the truth. They were taught how to fear God. They heard the truth.

- What God said and what they did were 2 different things.
- They feared God yet continued to make their own Gods.

They were afraid of God, but that is where it stopped. They had no desire to know Him. How does that relate to us today? Are we like them? Do we want just enough of God for Him to call the Lions off and then right back to the things that are self seeking and satisfying to us. Do the judgments of God really make a difference in our life? Do they cause us to seek the One behind the judgments?

The Scripture shows the progression of their sin as connected to their fear of the Lord.

- 1<sup>st</sup>) They were taught how to fear God so we see then that:
- 2<sup>nd</sup>) They feared God and appointed priests to sacrifice for them.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>) They feared God yet served their own Gods.
- 4<sup>th</sup>) They feared not the Lord, nor follow the commandments that God had commanded.

I hope we can see that the lions are a picture of God doing whatever it takes to have relationship with man. He will use whatever means to get our attention and for each person and each situation that may look differently.

Notice how the priests represented God. They were God's people but they weren't living like it.

We are meant to look and live differently from the world, and there will be times that the world doesn't like us very much because of that.