

## LIVING WITH YOUR PAST

### NUMBERS 32:23

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. There are consequences to giving into temptation.
  - a) Adam and Eve suffered consequences. (Gen. 3.11-17)
  - b) David suffered consequences. (2 Sam. 12.9-14)
  - c) **NUMBERS 32.23:** *“be sure your sin will find you out.”*
2. How do we overcome the guilt of our past bad decisions so that we can live guilt-free from sin? (Gal. 6.7; 1 Tim. 1.12-16)

#### I. BE THANKFUL

- A. Consider what Jesus did for Paul. (1 Tim. 1.12)
  1. **VERSE 12:** *“who has enabled me...”* (empowered)
  2. **VERSE 12:** *“...because He counted me faithful...”*
  3. **VERSE 12:** *“...putting me into the ministry.”*
- B. Consider what Paul did to Jesus. (1 Tim. 1.13)
  1. **VERSE 13:** *“Although I was formerly a blasphemer.”*
  2. **VERSE 13:** *“a persecutor”*
  3. **VERSE 13:** *“an insolent man.”* (cf. Acts 9.1)
- C. Be thankful that Jesus offers forgiveness.

#### II. BE THOUGHTFUL

- A. Consider how Jesus felt for Paul. (1 Tim. 1.14)
  1. **VERSE 14:** *“And the grace of our Lord.”*
  2. **VERSE 14:** *“exceedingly abundant.”*
- B. Consider how Paul felt for Jesus. (1 Tim. 1.14)
  1. **VERSE 14:** *“with faith.”* Paul believed with a faith that moved him to obey. (James 2.26)
  2. **VERSE 14:** *“...and love.”* Paul was moved by faith to obey because of His love for Jesus. (1 John 5.3)

#### III. BE TRANSPARENT

- A. Consider what Paul said about Jesus. (1 Tim. 1.15)
  1. **VERSE 15:** *“Christ Jesus”* Anointed. (John 1.41)
  2. **VERSE 15:** *“came into the world.”* (Phil. 2.6,7)
  3. **VERSE 15:** *“to save sinners.”* (John 19.10)
- B. Consider what Paul said about himself. (1 Tim. 1.15,16)
  1. **VERSE 15:** *“of whom I am chief.”*
  2. **VERSE 16:** *“I received mercy...a pattern...”*

**CONCLUSION:** We are forgiven of our past. (Ps. 66.16)

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*“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”*  
-Mark 16.15

**September 12, 2021**

#### MEETING TIMES:

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM**  
**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM**  
**SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM**  
**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM**

## JESUS IS A SERVANT

A young preacher was talking to his mentor and was complaining about being mistreated by the brethren. There were brethren who disagreed with him doctrinally and he found himself caught up in controversy. There were brethren who would come to him with their broken lives and expect him to fix them speedily. His mentor asked him, “Have they spit on your lapel? Have they slapped you in the face? Have they stripped you of your clothing and laughed? Have they replaced your crown with a crown of mockery?” He realized that he had been complaining about nothing, and so he answered, “No sir, but until they do, I will hold on and set forth to proclaim the message of Christ as His servant.”

To live as a servant, I need to remember that Jesus came and lived as a servant. Jesus tells us that *“the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many”* (Matt. 20.28). Paul explains that Jesus *“made Himself of no reputation...He humbled Himself”* (Phil. 2.7,8). Preaching on Solomon’s porch, Peter declared that *“the God of our fathers glorified His Servant Jesus”* (Acts 3.13).

In a word of might makes right and humility is equated with weakness, the world needs to be introduced to the Servant named Jesus. It is our example that shows the humility of Jesus. CLP

## THE DANGER OF TRADITIONS

### MARK 7:3

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. There are things that we might come to believe based on tradition rather than on scripture.
2. In Mark 7, Jesus faces opposition by the scribes and Pharisees because His disciples did not keep the traditions of the elders.
3. While there is nothing wrong with traditions, we cannot emphasize tradition over the commandments of God.

#### I. SETTING THE STAGE

- A. The people who are involved.
  1. **MARK 7.1:** “Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem.”
  2. The Pharisees were the separated ones. (cf. Acts 26.5)
  3. The scribes were the experts in the law. (cf. Luke 5.17)
- B. The problem that was debated.
  1. **MARK 7.2:** “Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands...”
  2. **MARK 7.3,4:** The disciples did not keep tradition.
  3. **MARK 7.5:** Often traditions are rooted in good intentions. Do we develop good-intended traditions?

#### II. SEEING THE RESPONSE

- A. Jesus set Himself apart.
  1. **MARK 7.6-8:** Jesus would not govern His life by traditions, but by the word of God.
  2. Scripture is all we need. (2 Pet. 1.3; 2 Tim. 3.16,17)
  3. **MARK 7.9-13:** Do not let traditions replace the Bible.
- B. Jesus emphasized the heart.
  1. **MARK 7.6:** “But their heart is far from Me.”
  2. It always starts with the heart. (Matt. 5.2)

#### III. SEEKING THE APPLICATION

- A. Tradition can make you overly critical. (Mark 7.1,2)
- B. Tradition can make you fanatical. (Mark 7.3,4)
- C. Tradition can make you judgmental. (Mark 7.5)
- D. Tradition can make you hypocritical. (Mark 7.6)

**CONCLUSION:** We are to be deeply committed, not to the traditions of men, but to the commands of God.

## JESUS IS SAVIOR

In the book of Philippians, the apostle Paul described Jesus like this: “*the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ*” (Phil. 3.20). In Acts 2, Peter preaches about Jesus and then says, “*Be saved from this perverse generation*” (Acts 2.40). Jesus is the Savior, and the only way for us to be saved is through Him. What does it mean when Jesus is characterized as the Savior?

The fact that Jesus is the Savior implies that something exists from which we need saving. Jesus as the Savior indicates the reality of sin. In **1 JOHN 3.8**, we are told that “*He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*” Jesus came to be our Savior because of sin. Sin is the worst thing that man has ever known. If it hadn’t been for sin, there would be no death. If it hadn’t been for sin, there would be no hell. When we go from day to day, and we see people who have given up the beautiful blessing of life, we need to impress upon them the reality of sin.

The fact that Jesus is the Savior implies that you and I are sinners. The penman of Hebrews wrote, “*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone*” (Heb. 2.9). This passage tells us that Jesus came to die for everyone. Thus everyone is guilty of sin. Regardless of how hard we try to ignore it or disguise it, it is everyone’s problem. It is not a white collar problem or a blue collar problem. It is not a problem that is more prevalent in minority communities. I need to remember that Jesus is my Savior as much as He is the Savior of everyone else.

The fact that Jesus is the Savior implies that the consequences of our sins is being in a lost condition. Jesus said that “*the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost*” (Luke 19.10). We live in a world that has turned heaven into a brothel where you can go to heaven and be given 72 virgins. We live in a world that has turned hell into a figment of our imagination. This is a world that needs to have impressed upon them that their sins lead to eternal destruction (Rev. 21.8).

If we want to help people who deal with the reality of sin because they are guilty of sin and face the consequences of their choices, we need to tell them about the Savior, Jesus Christ. CLP