

(Genesis) Genesis 38:24-26

by J. Vernon McGee

God's people are called to live on a high and lofty plain, not to compromise with the world, and to give the word of God without apology.

Duration: 6:23

Scripture: Genesis 6:13-14, Genesis 12:1-2, Genesis 38:18-19, Genesis 38:24-26, Genesis 46:3-4, Exodus 20:3, Matthew 6:33

Topics: "Genesis"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of not being concerned with the size of the crowd when preaching the word of God. He believes that if the word of God is given out, it will have its effect and bring results. The speaker uses the example of Judah communicating with the Canaanites and the tragic consequences that followed. He also addresses the idea that in order to reach this generation, one must come down to their level and communicate with them. However, the speaker argues that God never asked us to compromise, but rather to give the message of God without fear of losing the crowd.

Transcript

Why, this thing's almost unspeakable, that Judah is doing here. The fact of the matter is, he can see the sin in somebody else. Can't see it in himself.

You remember, Nathan went in to tell David a story about a fellow who had a little ewe lamb, and the rich man with a lot of sheep took it away from him, killed the little ewe lamb. Believe me, David was just like Judah here. You could see sin in somebody else.

David says, we're going to get that man, and we're going to stone him to death because of that. He said, I'd like to know where the man is. David said, you're the man.

It's interesting, we see sin in other people that we ourselves can't see within our own being. This man's guilty. In fact, a double charge is against him, and this thing that he's done is unspeakable.

It's his own daughter-in-law. And this is something that it's the custom there among the Canaanites. This is the way they lived.

We think today this sex revolution that we're having, and they talk about freedom of sex. Well, my friend, the heathen in the past all had the freedom of it. That's the reason they were heathen, and that's the

reason that they lived as low as they did, and finally were judged and removed from the scene.

The Canaanites are gone. They disappeared. God judged them.

That ought to be a message to any person, but a great many don't seem to get it, even Christians today. Many will say, well, I wonder why this is in the Bible. It's in the Bible to warn you and me, friends.

It's in the Bible to let us know that God did not approve of it, and it'll explain why God is going to get them all down into the land of Egypt. Now, when she's brought before a father-in-law, notice what happens, verse 25. When she was brought forth, she sent to her father-in-law, saying, By the man whose these are, am I with child.

And she said, Discern, I pray thee, whose are these? The signet and bracelets and stuff. You know, when all of that was presented to old Judah, he was going to have her stoned, and she said, Well, I'd like for you to know who the father of the child to be is. The one who owns this stuff I'm showing you, that's who it is.

Judah looked at it, and he had to admit it was his, verse 26. And Judah acknowledged them and said, She hath been more righteous than I, because that I gave her not to Shelah my son, and he knew her gain no more. This is something that was repulsive even to Judah.

But this is the way the Canaanites acted. This is the way they lived. Don't you see that God's going to have to get His people out of that land and away from that? And may I just pause this moment to make this application, because these things happened unto them, for example, unto us.

Now, I hear a great deal today that if you're going to witness to this generation, and if you can communicate to them, you've got to get down to their level. I disagree with that. God's never used that method to witness.

God's always, under any circumstances, asked His people to live on a very high and lofty plain. Now, I can well understand that somebody might have come along, one of these present-day theologians have come along and said to Noah, Now listen, brother Noah, you're spending all your time working here on this boat, and you ought not to be doing that. We're having a big party over here in Babylon tonight.

They just got in a new shipment of marijuana, and we tonight are really going to blow our mind. We are all going to pass around the grass, and we're just going to have a high old time, and we're going to take a trip. And you don't need to build a boat to take a trip.

We're going to give you a trip. Come on over. And Noah says, No, I'm not.

Well, brother Noah, how do you expect to reach all the hippies of Babylon? How are you going to reach the Babylonian beboppers unless you're willing to come down and communicate with them? The fact of the matter is, God never asked him to come down and communicate. God asked him to give his message. That's what we are asked to give today.

And I'm firmly convinced that if God's people would stand firm, and especially these men today that are so afraid they'll lose the crowd, so afraid they'll not have an audience to speak to, and they do everything in the world to get a crowd to speak to, and some of them are having their problems. But God never asked us to compromise. God asked us to give the word of God.

I remember hearing years ago the story about Dr. Schofield over in North Carolina. He's invited over there to speak, and it was a rainy night, the first night he began, and there's a very small crowd there. And the pastor felt called upon to apologize to Dr. Schofield.

He reached over and he said to him, I'm very sorry tonight there's so few people here to hear a man like you. We just regret it very much. And Dr. Schofield, he said, well, my Lord only had 12 men to speak to, and since he only had 12 men and never complained, may I say who is C.I. Schofield that he should complain about a small crowd anywhere? My friend, that's a lesson that this generation hasn't learned.

We think it's got to be big, and there's got to be a lot of people there or God's not in it. Maybe God has just called us to witness in these days. But I have news for you.

I believe that if the word of God's given out, it'll have its effect. It will certainly bring results. And Judah went down, and he sure communicated to the Canaanites.

He couldn't have got down more on their level than he did. And look what it did. It brought tragedy.

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