

DON'T HINDER ME ON MY JOURNEY

Subject: ROAD BLOCKS — By people, by satan, by God.



TEXT:

Numbers 20:21: Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his border: wherefore Israel turned away from him.

Israel has asked permission to travel thru the land, guaranteeing to pay their own way.

Numbers 20:14-21:

14 And Moses sent messengers from Kadesh unto the king of Edom, Thus saith thy brother Israel, Thou knowest all the travail that hath befallen us:

15 How our fathers went down into Egypt, and we have dwelt in Egypt a long time; and the Egyptians vexed us, and our fathers:

16 And when we cried unto the LORD, He heard our voice, and sent an angel, and hath brought us forth out of Egypt: and, behold, we are in Kadesh, a city in the uttermost of thy border:

17 Let us pass, I pray thee, through thy country: we will not pass through the fields, or through the vineyards, neither will we drink of the water of the wells: we will go by the king's high way, we will not turn to the right hand nor to the left, until we have passed thy borders. -

18 And Edom said unto him, Thou shalt not pass by me, lest I come out against thee with the sword.

19 And the Children of Israel said unto him, We will go by the high way: and if I and my cattle drink of thy water, then I will pay for it: I will only, without doing any thing else, go through on my feet.

20 And he said, Thou shalt not go through. And Edom came out against him with much people, and with a strong hand.

21 Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his border: wherefore Israel turned away from him.



There are a lot of selfish people in the world today who are focused on themselves and their own, excluding others from their life. They don't want other people to travel into their church or enter their private cliques.

Someone out there may need your help. You might

make their load a bit lighter and their path easier to the Promised Land. God may so order their path and schedule your help to lead that struggling pilgrim in.

Edom cared little to go into the Promised Land, and tried to hinder the hungry hearts from going directly in.

Shall I avoid them? Make them go around me? Shall I lock the door of mercy? Shall I turn the heavy laden traveler back to the wilderness? All of us should study:

Galatians 6:10: As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of Faith.

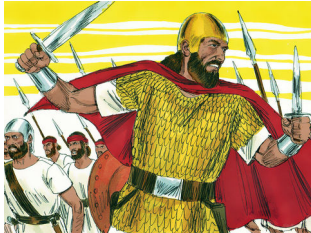
1 Peter 4:9: Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

All of us must be more on the giving than the receiving end, for Jesus said:

Acts 20:35c: It is more blessed to give than to receive.

All of us must be more on the giving than the receiving end.

Israel may not come your way again and ask a favor. Next time it may be in judgment.



1 Samuel 14:47: So Saul took the kingdom over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, and against the children of Ammon, and against Edom, and against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines: and whithersoever he turned himself, he vexed them.

God will respond to our lack of kindness. You never know when you will need a very big favor from the very person you snubbed.

Luke 6:28c: For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Jesus is passing our way, too. Will you give Him a brush off? Will you close your heart to Him?

Why are you refusing to let Him come through your life? Edom was afraid Israel might mess up some cultivated field, or tramp down some idols. This world suspects Jesus may do some tearing up, so it won't give Him the right of way.

What fears sinners harbor! They feel Jesus takes advantage of you like some folks do. They feel they will never be able to live their life the way they want to,

that the Christian life is unnatural, too high or too narrow. God might destroy their plans.

Matthew 25:24-25:

24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is Thine.



Such thoughts about Jesus are evil.

However, He never pushes His way in. He takes no advantage of you. He asks only reasonable requests. Some fear Jesus' invasion of their time; they want a certain amount for themselves .

**Selfishness carries
its own
punishment.**

Think before you say "NO" to Jesus again. He will pay His way. Jesus never comes as a beggar. He is always a giver. Please don't close the main street of your life to Jesus. He will bypass you forever.

Selfishness carries its own punishment. Reject the light, and you will have the darkness.

Behold, I stand:

Revelation 3:20: Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.

Luke 14:23-24:

23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that My house may be filled.

24 For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of My supper.

If you close your borders to Jesus, you will forfeit you hope of Heaven. What is your final answer?

Luke 8:26, 29:

26 And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee.

29 (For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man.

For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.)

If you say “NO”, God will then leave you alone — until the Judgment Day. Then He will say,

Matthew 25:41: Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, punishment.

People in their carnal nature — a type of Esau — can also hinder us on our journey by grieving the Spirit of God and drive Him away during our Holy Ghost services by trying to show themselves off. They also hinder the unsuspecting babe in Christ who thinks their conduct is of God when, in fact, they are only faking the power of God and pretending to be in the Spirit.

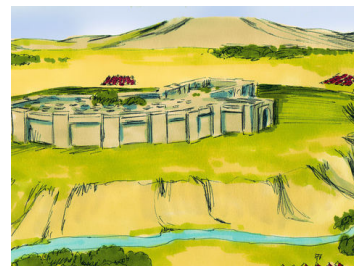
These both deserve the judgment of God for certain, and it will come as it did to the Pharisees who crucified Jesus. Jesus said,

Matthew 23:38a: Behold, your house is left unto you desolate:

“Esau-ites” will only go just so far toward God as their flesh will allow them, and just as far as is permissible to still retain their self-centered life. They won’t and can’t proceed any further. They won’t let anyone else proceed either, if they can help it. This stopping place is ordered by God, for God will not allow this nature of carnality to enter into the Promised Land.

One such carnal person did slip into the Promised Land. His name was Achan. He kept his carnality carefully covered up, until he got in. But the old flesh really showed off, and he didn’t last long — for again, the Judgment of God took good care of him. Let’s take a look at what happened.

After the Children of Israel crossed over into the Promised Land, the first place they were to conquer was the well-fortified city of Jericho which the Lord had told Joshua He had given into their hands:



Joshua 6:2: And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.

Due to the intense wickedness of the people of Jericho, the Children of Israel were commanded to completely destroy the city, sparing no one and nothing except for Rahab and her family, as she had helped the men Joshua had sent out earlier to spy the land. Everything in the city was to be completely destroyed, and the Children of Israel were warned not to take any accursed thing from that

city as it would bring a curse upon them.

Joshua 6:17-18:

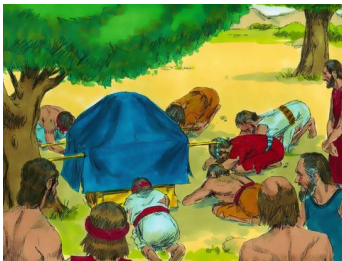
17 And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

18 And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.

As we learn in **Joshua 7**, Achan had taken some of the accursed items, resulting in Israel losing some of its men in the next battle they fought at Ai, a battle which should easily have been won but was lost.

Joshua 7:1:

But the Children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the Tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the Children of Israel.



With their clothes rent and dust sprinkled on their heads, Joshua and the leaders fell with their faces on the ground before the Lord Who told Joshua:

Joshua 7:10-13:

10 And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?

11 Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed My Covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff.

12 Therefore the Children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.

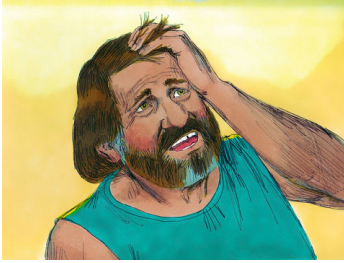
13 Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you.

Each tribe and family came before Joshua until the guilty party was found: Achan.



Joshua 7:20-26a;

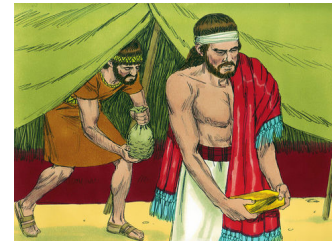
20 And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done:



21 When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.

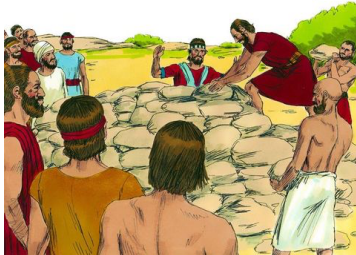
22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, it was hid in his tent, and the silver under it.

23 And they took them out of the midst of the tent, and brought them unto Joshua, and unto all the Children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD.



24 And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his

daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor.



25 And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones.

26 And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of His anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The Valley of Achor, unto this day.

My friend, don't allow yourself to be hindered on your journey through this life. Invite the Lord Jesus into your life, and He will guide you safely into the Promised Land — Heaven — which He has prepared for those who love Him.

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