

## THE DANGER OF IDLENESS

### TEXT:

***Judges 5:23: Curse ye Meroz, said the Angel of the LORD, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty.***

The book of Judges has a very important place in the plan of divine revelation. It expresses the truth of greatest importance with lessons of deep, solemn moments to those who claim to be filled with the Spirit and living victoriously in the spiritual land of Canaan.

*The danger of spiritual declension after great spiritual blessings is always a warning to every believer in Christ Jesus.*

***1 Corinthians 10:12: Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.***

***1 Corinthians 10:1: Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;***

The Book of Judges tells us of the failure of Israel after they had entered the Promised Land, a failure that lasted not a week, or a month, or 40 years – but 400 years. This declension during the time of the Judges is the same type of declension that occurred after Pentecost. Just as Israel entered Canaan and then lost it, so the Church received the fullness of the Holy Spirit, but this infilling of the Spirit has leaked out. With this leaking out is the decline of spiritual power, along with the Church's effectiveness for Christ.

Little leaks sink mighty vessels. This warning continually comes to the church from the Lord Jesus and the Holy Apostles.

***Hebrews 2:1: Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.***

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The word "slip" translated from the Greek means: *to carelessly pass (miss); drift; to let slip*. This is a deeply serious and sober truth. Two men were visiting Niagara Falls, looking at the great Falls. One said, "That is the greatest waste of

*power in the world.” The other replied, “You are mistaken”. The greatest waste of power in the world is the waste of spiritual power of the Holy Spirit. God cannot trust us with much, as we would waste it – mostly on ourselves.”*

Just as it was in the times of the Judges, God had to raise up certain ones to carry on His work and stir the people to revival. This is one of the many dangers that has always engulfed the church since its beginning. If it were not for the Presence of the Lord, the Church would have come to an end long ago by being swallowed up by the world.



**Our protection is not in our Creed, but in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ and to His Word, the Bible.**

The worst danger to the church and the body of believers is the danger of idleness by becoming indifferent to the Word of God. When we disobey its warnings and commands, we will go down to our own defeat. This is the picture of our Scripture text. Israel had lost the blessing of the Lord, and in this time of spiritual declension, God raised up Deborah and Barak to bring a revival to the people of God.

Israel had lost control of its possessions by disobedience. The Canaanites — instead of being driven out — were tolerated in the land until they gained control. What can you do to keep the Canaanites from gaining control of you? What and who are your Canaanites? Are they Shows, television, bowling, roller skating, amusement parks, makeup, jewelry, dancing, cigarettes, or fleshly lusts? God raised up His Deliverer. Will you harken, obey, and get free again, or will you disobey and go into worse bondage than you are in now?



Deborah tried to rally the forces of Israel for a united attack against the enemy, but she met with great reverses due to one problem: she found several of the tribes who remained inactive and idle during the campaign. Among them was the city of Meroz, upon which came an awful curse because of disobedience and indifference.

*“They came not up to the help of the Lord against the mighty.” Although the battle was won and God gave great power and set Israel free, Meroz was not allowed to get by. Out of the mouth of the prophetess came these words, “Curse Meroz, saith the Angel of the Lord, because they came not to the help of the Lord”.*

This book in God’s Word says:

***Proverbs 26:2: As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.***

There is no curse without a cause. It is impossible to be judged unless we have it coming to us by doing something contrary to the Will of God. Being indifferent to the cause of Christ is considered by God to be a great sin. Meroz failed in the place of duty and would not come to the battle against the foes of darkness. This blight to blind ignorance is also show in Malachi “*but ye say*”, and also in:

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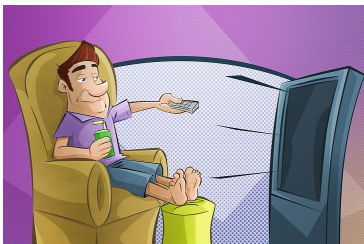
***Jeremiah 8:6: I hearkened and heard, but they spake not aright: no man repented him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle.***

***Malachi 3:8: Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings.***

What have I done? That is the trouble — you have done **nothing**. The displeasure of God is upon you for your indifference to the things of God.

You are indifferent to the salvation of your family, indifferent about the baptism of the Spirit, and indifferent to the work of God going forward as evidenced by your staying home in idleness when we have Services. These Services are to help you continue on and to stir you to fight against the very forces of evil, sin, and worldliness — *our* Canaanites.

If you stay at home indifferent, or sit idle while others do all the work, and if you become lazy to the Church of Jesus Christ and its war against evil that is sending souls to Hell by the minutes of the ticking clock, then the re-enthronement of Canaanite idolatry will move in swiftly, and the dethronement of God from your hearts and the hearts of the saints will follow. When the home and church sit idly by with indifference to the spiritual condition of the lost —allowing them to go into the captivity of sin which compromises them — then the nation goes to the dogs, and the Church goes into bondage and becomes captive to the world.



Compromise with worldly pleasures, intermarriage with the lost and ungodly, and Sabbath breaking are all signs of spiritual decay. The cause is idleness and indifference. The Church is being shorn of her power because you came not to the help of Lord — to the help of the Lord against the mighty.

As the curse came on Meroz because of its neutral position, so you cannot be neutral concerning Jesus and His work without being cursed for it. The sin of omission is as treacherous as willful acts of evil doings. This point is illustrated in the life of David. When he became idle, he was cursed with sorrow upon sorrow for what he caused to be

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done by being idle. He engaged in practices of such evil that cannot escape the judgment of God. He committed adultery, lied, and murdered an innocent man.

The curse will come to all of you who are lukewarm who have lost all zeal, the fire of God, and are neither hot nor cold, just neutral — lukewarm.

**Revelation 3:15-16:**

***15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.***

***16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth.***

It would be better to leave this world in a blaze of glory for Christ than to fizzle out being idle.

The idleness of Meroz was counted by God as the same as disobedience to the Divine commands to march in the army of the Lord. Perhaps Meroz thought they were so small and insignificant that they would not be missed. We can reason ourselves out and 'check out' by false emotion and artificial humility, but we will incur the displeasure of God. This had a killing influence on others by their example.

This Church has a commission. We are on orders from the Master to occupy until He comes. To sit idly by when we are to fight the good fight of faith is to ask for real trouble from the Lord. How many lost souls have died and gone to Hell because of idleness and indifference of professed Christians, especially those who claim the Baptism of the Spirit? You are responsible before God to be a witness for Christ. God did not give you the Baptism to sit idly by. He does not fill you to enjoy yourself, and this is one of the reasons why many others are not filled. Your motive is not right. Why do you want to receive the Holy Spirit? What is the purpose of your seeking Him? God weighs your motives, and if yours is to Glorify Jesus and tell others of His love and salvation for all, God will surely meet and fill you.

**We are on orders from the Master to occupy until He comes.**

How many of you are sinning by your idleness to the call for prayer for revival?

***The Church that does not pray does not have power.***

The Church that does not pray does not have power, nor does it have a real burden for souls. Our lack of power is seen clearly in our lack of self-denial. How much are we in love with ourselves? We pet and pamper ourselves, and sit by idly on the sidelines while others fight almost alone the powers of darkness, and nearly wear out in their struggle against satan.

How can we come up to the work of the Lord and stand against the mighty?

- Give yourself wholly to Christ and refrain from careless living.
- Give yourself to prayer — pray down the power of God and turn the enemy to flight. Prayerfully look to the Lord for a spiritual service and the Will of God to be done. Pray until your own heart is stirred and moved to the work of the Lord. All other praying is that of the Pharisees.
- Give your best to the Worship Services, and don't come just to sit and soak up. Put yourselves into the Services. Get some anointing and give it to others in the meeting.
- Come and do personal work. Ask God for a new baptism of Divine love. Love will work while old self lies idly by and will not come to the work.
- Get out of low gear and get on the move for God. Some of you are moving so slowly you are nearly standing still. There are some folks in the church always taking their religion in homeopathic doses, and if they ever go to Heaven at all, they think they must go the way the snail goes, or as someone has said *“they must go on crutches, or limp all the way there”*. There is no danger of them breaking the speed limit or speed record. Their axles are not hot with speed like the chariot of Jehu, but then when it comes to their business life, they travel in high powered machines or airplanes.
- Move for the Lord with all the passion of your soul, on fire with the Spirit. It is time we stop wearing out in the pleasures of the world and stop rusting out in the work of the Lord.

**This is THE CALL of the HEAVENLY BRIDEGROOM in:**

**Song of Solomon 2:10-13:**

***10 My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.***

***11 For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;***

***12 The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;***

***13 The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.***

The people of Meroz may not have actually hindered the Lord's warriors, but

they did not help. In this, lay their guilt. They were cursed because they did nothing. Prayerless Christian, take heed. The fig tree was cursed by the merciful Christ because it was fruitless. Doing nothing in the way of helping the Lord's cause is the sure road to becoming a withered Christian.

Abigail was well taught in theology which she assured David:

***1 Samuel 25:28: I pray thee, forgive the trespass of thine  
handmaid: for the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house;  
because my lord fighteth the battles of the LORD, and evil hath not  
been found in thee all thy days.***

Lord, help us to look after YOUR business, and I know YOU will look after ours.

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