

Don't Get Too Comfortable

Please read Genesis 11:1-9 and Luke 12:13-21.

This week in Sunday School, the kids are learning about the story of the Tower of Babel, and the resulting effect of sourcing our comfort in ourselves rather than God.

Growing up in Vermont with long snowy winters, you tend to make a lot of snowmen. By the time I turned eighteen, I was an expert snowman craftswoman. The trick is to start with a small well-rounded snowball, then slowly roll that snowball in a line so that more snow can stick to it. What was once a small and manageable ball of snow is now the size of a beach ball. Consequently, if you start with a beach ball sized snowball, your snowman will be lopsided and likely fall over.

Similarly, the Israelites stopped trusting in God's provision, and started trusting in themselves, by making one prideful decision at a time.

After the flood subsided and God established His covenant with Noah, Noah and his family were told to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth" (9:1). In order to follow this command, the Israelites would have to remain nomadic. They would not be able to establish themselves in one area to build up resources, they would have to keep moving and trust that God would provide what they needed.

Just a few chapters later, we see God's people choosing to settle in Shinar ignoring God's command to "fill the earth." Settling made the Israelites comfortable and this one decision to stop trusting God was the first snowball leading to their destruction. As they established themselves, their hearts filled with pride resulting in the desire to "make a name" for themselves. Their desire to build a ziggurat, a temple where they could supposedly talk to the gods, was proof of how far away they had strayed.

Again, we see this same warning against trusting in ourselves in Luke 12 where Jesus confronts the man who is storing up treasure. Jesus rebukes the man for being one who "lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:21).

You and I face this same temptation. I am constantly being reminded that the Lord is the one who provides, not me. We will never find lasting peace in our bank accounts. We will never be able to work or make "enough." Yes, budgeting is important and we should be good stewards of our finances, but those things cannot give us the security our hearts long for. Today, what is the source of your comfort? Where does your treasure lie? Together, let us learn from our history and put our hope in the One who is always faithful to provide and deserves our trust.