



2016: Week 9

Sunday, February 28th 2016

"Be On Guard! (Even Against Yourself)"

Jeremiah 17:9

"The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?" (NASB)

On Sunday, John preached from Numbers 25. In this passage we find Israel in the plains of Moab right before they are about to enter the Promised Land. God's people were following His leading, and yet, just as they are about to begin their conquest of Canaan, they hit a snag: themselves! Numbers 25 details Israel's prolific sins of immorality and idolatry. They yielded to sin and consequently distanced themselves from God. This passage serves as a substantial warning for us— amidst the blessing of being led by the one true God, we (like Israel) are capable of committing incredibly destructive sins. When we let down our guard and follow the sins of the culture, we usher in divine discipline and the painful consequences that follow.

1. **READ Numbers 25:1–18**

- Why did Israel fall into the trap of immorality with the Moabites?
- Why do we fall for Satan's traps involving our own moral failure?
- What could Israel have done when they were invited to participate in the idol worship of the Moabites?
- What can we do when others are encouraging us to join them in doing things we know are against God's will?

2. **READ 1 Corinthians 6:18** "Flee immorality!" **1 Corinthians 10:14** "Flee from idolatry!"

- Although it may seem like a simple answer, why do you think God tell us to **flee** when we encounter these temptations?

3. In spite of the discouraging sins of Israel in Numbers 25, there is a hero within this account. A priest named Phinehas stands up for what is right. He was "jealous" with the jealousy of God (25:11). He had a passion for God's passions— His children walking in obedience with Him. He was grieved by what grieves God— sin! I believe Phinehas was on the *alert* for anything that would incite God's people to sin.

In 1 Peter 5:8, Peter warns the reader, "Be on the alert!" We need to be on the alert for that which hurts our fellowship with God. Whether that be the devil (1 Peter 5:8), the things of the world (1 John 2:15–16), or our own flesh (Romans 8:5–8), we need to be on guard against that which leads us toward sin. We are intrinsically selfish and prideful, and if we aren't careful, we are very capable of falling into the various traps of sin.

- What aspect of your life do you need to do a better job of "being on the alert"?
- How can you better help one another (within your family) to "be on the alert" against sin?
- How can you better demonstrate a "jealousy" for that which God is jealous?

FAMILY PRAYER: Thank the Lord for His incredible mercy and grace in sending Jesus. Thank the Lord for the incredible provision He has given you (the believer) in the sending of His Holy Spirit. Ask the Lord to protect you from sin and to help you walk closer with Him by faith.