



September 8, 2024 Sermon Notes

Sermon:

“The Tragedy Of Not Listening To God”

(Judges 2:1-3 ESV)

Sermon By: Pastor G. Chris Brown

Sermon Text:

Judges 2:1-3 ESV

Now the angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you, [2] and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.' But you have not obeyed my voice. What is this you have done? [3] So now I say, I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you."

Background:

- Gilgal was located between Jordan and Jericho (Joshua 4:19-20 ESV - The people came up out of the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and they encamped at Gilgal on the east border of Jericho. [20] And those twelve stones, which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up at Gilgal.)
- God makes a covenant agreement that He wouldn't break, (Leviticus 26:42-44 ESV - then I will remember my covenant with Jacob, and I will remember my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land. [43] But the land shall be abandoned by them and enjoy its Sabbaths while it lies desolate without them, and they shall make amends for their iniquity, because they spurned my rules and their soul abhorred my statutes. [44] Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not spurn them, neither will I abhor them so as to destroy them utterly and break my covenant with them, for I am the LORD their God. Deuteronomy 7:9 ESV - Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the

faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,)

- **Then God also promises that the Caannites won't leave, but that they will indeed not be going away but that they were going to be thorns in the side. (Numbers 33:55-56 ESV - But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then those of them whom you let remain shall be as barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall trouble you in the land where you dwell. [56] And I will do to you as I thought to do to them.")**

“Breaking The Altar”

- **The word of God isn't meant for us to just read and skim, but the word of God is meant for us to apply what is being said by God! We will never get to where the Lord wants us to be, and we will never grow with the Lord if we don't allow the word of the Lord to change us, if we don't allow the word of God to help us, if we don't allow the word of the Lord to transform us, and if we don't allow the word of the Lord to make us better! You can't get better with the Lord, if the Lord can't get your attention because you are so caught up with everything else that the Lord doesn't have your attention!**
- **The Lord has spoken to you to break down the altar, but see when you make things and people an altar and allow them to have too much influence and power over you that's when you don't break down the altar because you've been so used to being in this same condition, that you are scared to try to get out! It is the fact that you have allowed the altars to wreak havoc in your life, that they have more power than the Lord and now that altar, is the thing that's making you feel the way you are!**
- **What altar so you need to break down, what do you need to leave, what do you need to break apart from, and what do you need to stop doing because there's something that you are doing, there's something that's causing you pain, and there's something that's making you and the Lord not on the same page and you have to get rid of it?**
- **Some altars of bad habits have to leave, altars of a dirty tongue have to leave, altars of entertaining the wrong things have to leave, altars of having the wrong mindset and mentality have to leave, and altars of having the wrong motives have to move! There are altars that need to leave my life, and the reason that they need to leave is because I know that the Lord has allowed me to live and because I'm alive, then surely I need to get away from stuff that aren't going to be good for me!**
- **If the Lord has given us the promise of not breaking His covenant for us, why should I be the one that makes the covenant break apart!! The Lord didn't have to be good to the Israelites, and the Lord doesn't have to be good to me but because the Lord has been good to me and because the Lord has been great for us, that should makes us have this joy, that should make us have this commitment to holiness, and that should make us have this determination and spirit to live for the Lord, and not**

blow what I have because I'm glad for what the Lord has given me, and some altars just have to leave for me to live!

- All they had to do was tear down the altars, they got the word of God but they didn't apply it and now they have thorns in their lives! The word of God is always giving us a message, the word of God is always giving us a point, and the word of God is always expressing to us the importance and the value of having values and following the Lord! We should follow the Lord, and we should always want to follow the Lord but we have to follow the word of the Lord and in following the word of the Lord we grow and improve when we want to but we have to want to grow and improve but the preaching of the Gospel gives us the tools to live, the warnings to take, the food to eat, the food to reject, the right path, and the wrong path because it's just some stuff that I just can't have in my life!
- It is some stuff that you can't be around because there are some altars that need to go away, but if you don't go away from stuff then be prepared for a thorn that doesn't go away!

“The Problem With The Wrong Choices”

- If the Lord has given us the promise of not breaking His covenant for us, why should I be the one that makes the covenant break apart!! The Lord didn't have to be good to the Israelites, and the Lord doesn't have to be good to me but because the Lord has been good to me and because the Lord has been great for us, that should makes us have this joy, that should make us have this commitment to holiness, and that should make us have this determination and spirit to live for the Lord, and not blow what I have because I'm glad for what the Lord has given me, and some altars just have to leave for me to live!
- There are some thorns that do need to go away, but when I hang around things too long it becomes a thorn in the body and in the spirit that now is something that I have to get away from but I can't because when I could have I didn't! We all live with some thorns, and those thorns sometimes are a reminder for us that they are there because of me, and it's some stuff God doesn't remove but makes me live with as a reminder of my disobedience to Him!
- Some stuff I have caused, and I am still living with at this moment! You have to be willing to accept the consequences for some actions, because some stuff isn't anybody else's fault but it is my fault, and because of that I have to accept the consequences for some stuff that I did!
- There's something about being blessed, there's something about the Lord opening doors for you, and there's something about knowing what you have overcome to get to where you are now to where you realize, and to where you understand that because I know the toils in my life, because I know the valleys in my life, because I know that hurts in my life, and because I know the distresses in my life and now that

I see that the Lord has allowed me to make it through them and continue to live it's just some stuff I'm not messing up!

- **When I know that I have been blessed, why should I mess up those blessings that the Lord has given me? When I know what the Lord has done, and when I know how the Lord has been good to me I know that there are things that I can't mess up, and I know that because of how much the Lord has been there for me, and because I know that the Lord has helped us me, I know that the Lord has blessed me, I know that the Lord has lifted me, and I know that the Lord has let me live!**
- **The word of God is real, and the word of the Lord is the key to any life to be clean, to be spiritual, and to be righteous! The direction of any life has the right leader, and there a reason why we need the right leader in this life because there are times we can have the wrong leaders, and sometimes having the wrong leaders can send us down the wrong loop, the wrong pipe, the wrong life, and the wrong path! We don't just need any leader, but we need the leader that has my best interest, I need a leader that will stand with me, I need a leader that will stand for me, and I need a leader that I can trust!**

This Week's Goals:

- Read Judges 2 this week!

Broadway MBC - Winchester, Kentucky

Pastor G. Chris Brown

121 W. Broadway St, Winchester, Kentucky 40391

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