

Men Who Had Second Thoughts

Introduction. I think it safe to say that most people do what they do to make themselves happy. This is the first thought. Anatole France said, "A person is never happy except at the price of some ignorance." The aim of the lesson today is to better understand the importance of examining our reasons and conclusions and see why it is good for us to have second thoughts. First thoughts and actions are not always the best.

Several men in the Bible had what seemed to be good first thoughts -- they were happy; yet, after seriously looking at their situation and the evidences that were present, they had second thoughts and came out much better in the end. Although these are all men, both men and women can learn from these examples if you will only listen and apply.

I. ***The Adulterous King***

- A. This was a man, the king of Israel, who loved God and gave his all to the service of God, yet was still able to go wrong (2 Samuel 11:3, 5).
- B. He did wrong by making a bad decision, then compounded it by trying to cover up his sin (2 Samuel 11:15).
 - 1. With many today, this is the case in abortion.
 - 2. Abortion is the end result of many trying to cover up the sin of being immoral.
- C. David reaped grim consequences because of his first thoughts (2 Samuel 12:15, 19). Yet, despite this David had second thoughts, and reconciled with God (Psalm 32:5; 51:3).
- D. You need to have the heart of David and return to God instead of trying to cover up the wrongs in your life.

II. ***The Pleasure Seeking Wise Man***

- A. Solomon was a man of wisdom.
 - 1. His wisdom was given by God (1 Kings 3:9-13).
 - 2. He used his wisdom, for the most part, in the right way, yet in his later life he mis-used it and tried every pleasure (Ecclesiastes 2:10).
- B. He had second thoughts about materialism (Ecclesiastes 2:11). This man of wisdom could see what was best for him (Ecclesiastes 2:24).
- C. This great giant of wisdom also shows us that the most important task in life is to serve God (Ecclesiastes 12:11-14).

III. ***The Lost Son***

- A. The son wanted to "live it up," but his riches soon failed him (Luke 15:11-16).
- B. He was forced to rethink what he should be doing.

1. One course of action made sense at one particular time, but not in the present.
 2. The second thought led to his only good decision: He had to return (Luke 15:17-20).
- C. Closer examination of his situation led him to see the consequences of what he had done. He could see he had made mistakes and he could see that he was wrong. Many will not do this because of fear of being seen as a failure. Pride stands in their way of doing what is right and good.
- D. He wanted to do what was right, so he acknowledged his error (Luke 15:21-24). He did not try to justify his actions, nor did he return with a proud spirit, but a humble one.

IV. ***The Impetuous Disciple***

- A. The fact that Peter loved the Lord can never be denied (John 13:37). However, Peter was impetuous or very quick to act and speak.
- B. Many today are just like Peter and are apt to make bad mistakes.
1. Peter was quick to deny that he would ever deny Jesus (Matthew 26:33-35).
 2. Yet, Peter made a severe mistake -- he did deny Jesus (Matthew 26:69-75). In fact, his denial of the Lord just as strong a denial as he had stated in Matthew 26:33-35.
- C. He repented because of his love for the Lord.
1. He had made a mistake but that did not keep him from doing what was right.
 2. After the resurrection, Peter affirmed his love for the Lord (John 21:15-17).
 3. Peter later gave his life for what he preached and believed in.
 - a) He was beaten, imprisoned, yet this did not stop his decision to stand for Christ.
 - b) History records that he was crucified upside down.

V. ***The Persecuting Pharisee***

- A. Paul was earlier called Saul and he was blinded to the truth as were many of the religious leaders at that time (Acts 7:58; 9:1-2).
- B. It took the physical presence of the risen Savior and the physical blindness that he experienced on the road to Damascus to open his spiritual eyes that he might see and accept the truth (Acts 9:8, 12).
- C. When Paul's physical eyes were opened and his heart was opened to the truth (Acts 9:18; 26:16-18), he had second thoughts and did good in the vineyard of the Lord (1 Corinthians 9:19-23).

Conclusion. One final situation that you might find yourself in is the sinning Christian. As a Christian, Simon sinned (Acts 8:18-19). Peter cautioned him of his situation (Acts 8:20-21), and strongly admonished him (Acts 8:22). This led to Simon the sorcerer having second thoughts because he was told of the severity of his mistake (Acts 8:23). Despite his error, he reconsidered and reconciled himself to God. James Oppenheim said, "The foolish man seeks happiness in the distance, the wise grows it under his feet." There is good in many bad ordeals that we face. These ordeals led these men back to God. What will it take for you?