The Dangers of Complacency

Judges 18:1 HCSB  In those days, there was no king in Israel, and the Danite tribe was looking for territory to occupy. Up to that time no territory had been captured by them among the tribes of Israel.

Jesus made it clear that the Lord does not tolerate complacent attitudes when He said, "Whoever is not for me is against me." (Luke 11:23) We are either progressing in Christ or regressing. Are you growing in all aspects into Christ?

- Ephesians 4:15 HCSB  But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into Him who is the head--Christ.

God wanted His people to do battle with their enemies, but the tribe of Dan refused to fight. The people of Dan preferred to live in peaceful coexistence with the enemies of God (Judges 5:15). Paul wrote, "Fight the good fight of faith." (1 Timothy 6:12) There are many battles that are worth engaging in for the Lord.

The Danites had been excluded from an inheritance of land because they had not trusted God in driving out the Amorites (Judges 1:34-35). Because of their complacent attitudes, the Danites had to live in the hills in two small villages. When we refuse to stand up for our God, many of our privileges are taken away.

The Danites chose to live in an easy place in the north of Israel, in a settlement colonized by the idol worshipping Phoenicians. God did not want His people mingling with the people of the world, but the leaders of Dan felt it was easier to compromise than to fight for God and His purpose. Paul wrote,

- Ephesians 6:13 HCSB  This is why you must take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand.

The Christian life is full of battles that must be fought everyday or we will be overcome by complacent attitudes.

The leaders of the tribe of Dan loved the life of ease. They believed in peace at any price. Eventually, the Dan people decided, "Why work when we can steal?" They took a shortcut in acquiring a priest to cover all their spiritual, social, and cultural concerns (Judges 18:13-20). They became complacent in fulfilling their responsibilities to obey, worship, and serve the Lord in sincerity and truth. Do not settle for second best or you will live to regret it.

The Danites faced greater judgment from God because of their sins of omission than their sins of commission. They failed to complete the expectations and commandments of God. James writes,

- James 4:17 HCSB  So, for the person who knows to do good and doesn't do it, it is a sin.

The Danites enjoyed short-term pleasures, but ended up suffering long term pain. Throughout history, the people of the tribe of Dan were ignored. They intermarried with the Philistines. Their apathy led to their destruction.

- Proverbs 1:32 HCSB  For the waywardness of the inexperienced will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them.

The people of Dan did not take God’s will seriously and suffered the consequences. God’s order to drive out the Amorites and the promise of His blessings were ignored. They were not willing to pay the price of obedience. One professor said, "If you think education is expensive, just try ignorance – it costs much more!"

The leaders of Dan learned too late the truth of

- Proverbs 14:12 HCSB  There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.
We must learn to not trust our own insights but instead to lean fully on the wisdom of God and the validity of His holy scriptures.

The people of Dan learned that failure to be committed to God, His will, and His people is a formula for disaster. The Lord wants us to love Him above all others for our good. He always has our best interests at heart. God is the only one who can give without adding any sorrows (Proverbs 10:22).