

PHARAOH'S COMPROMISES

Ex.3:18; 5:1-3

These compromises of Pharaoh are samples of the temptations which Satan now uses to hinder and prevent the Christian from doing God's work.

Snare No#1

"And Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God here in the land" (8:25).

But the Lord had explicitly commanded that the Israelites take a three days' journey into the wilderness in order to worship Him. Pharaoh grants Israel permission to worship *their* God; but only if they stayed in Egypt and under his rule.

This means be a Christian if you want, but don't break off your yoke with darkness; don't break off your connection with sin.

Satan will allow us to worship God, only if we remain his slaves. In Christianity there are millions of nominal Christians who worship God but are slaves to Satan.

Satan did not insist that Israelites bow down to *him*, but he suggests there is no need for them to be extreme: *"sacrifice to your God in the land"*. Enjoy both worlds! The land meant Egypt. And Egypt represents the *world*. But God's people have been delivered *"from this present evil world"* (Gal. 1:4).

Said the Lord to His apostles, *"You are not of this world, but I have chosen you out of the world"* (John 15:19). And again, *"They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world"*. (John 17:14). *"The friendship with the world is hatred toward God"* (James 4:4), how then can believers worship God "in the land"? They cannot.

Satan says be a Christian, but mix with the world. But God demands total separation, not a partial one. Satan says camouflage yourselves. Join hands with the world, and don't be different; don't be distinct. He makes us believe that all peoples, of all faiths should come together. But when Christians or churches give in to this deceptive lure, the offense of the cross ceases.

It is not something new that Satan tries to get the Church to mix with the world. Since the Church of Pergamum he has to the largest measure succeeded. Satan wants, "no distinction "between the common man and God's man. He wants believers take common ground with the unbelievers, so God can be put on a level with the gods of Egypt.

Satan promotes “ecumenicalism”; God on the other hand promotes “separation”. With his first compromise firmly resisted Pharaoh resorts to another, even more subtle.

Snare No# 2

"And Pharaoh said, I will let you go to offer your sacrifices to the LORD your God in the desert" (8:28).

Pharaoh’s desire was for them was not to go out of his reach, and to keep them close enough to Egypt, so that he might easily draw them back again, that way he could destroy their testimony as God’s holy people.

Borderline Christianity is a great tool for Satan; it suits his purpose well. A man that is neither out –and –out for God, nor is a complete worldly person, is a stumbling-block to everybody. He has no power at all for anything, but to make trouble. He is respected by no one, neither by the Christian or the worldly person.

Lot is a perfect example of a “borderline believer” who pitched his tent close to Sodom and Gomorrah. We all know too well how Satan ruined his life and testimony, and how things turned out for him and his family, because of their close ties and worldly influences with those unbelieving prideful, sinful Sodomites.

Satan will try this same strategy with us. He will say: Be a Christian, but don’t go too far with your Christianity. Beware of becoming narrow-minded; there are so many different ways of expressing the same thing. Christianity can mean many things to many people. Avoid extremes; do not be fanatical; be sane and sensible in your religious life. If you really must be a Christian, do not let it spoil your life. There is no need to cut loose from your old friends and associations.

Sadly so many Christians are have damaged their testimony and dishonored the name of our Lord because they chose to be “borderline Christians,” whose eyes fixed on Egypt, instead of Canaan.

Snare No#3

"Then Moses and Aaron were brought back to the Pharaoh. Go, worship the LORD your God," he said. "But just who will be going?" Moses answered, "We will go with our young and old, with our sons and daughters, and with our flocks and herds, because we are to celebrate a festival to our LORD."

Pharaoh said, The LORD be with you—if I let you go, along with your women and children! Clearly you are bent on evil. No! Have only the men go: and worship the LORD, since that's what you have been asking for." *Then Moses and Aaron were driven out of the Pharaoh's presence*" (Ex. 10:8-11).

The Pharaoh grants the Israelites to go on the 3 day journey in order to worship, but he wants their wives and "the little ones" to stay behind. This is clever work on his part. Could you imagine? The fathers in the wilderness worshipping Jehovah God and the wives and children left behind in Egypt with all its idolaters.

The Pharaoh knew if this were the case, the men of Israel would not go too far, or remain away too long, if their families stayed back in Egypt. Sooner or later they would find their way back to Egypt.

With this 3rd snare of compromise, Satan is saying: Be a Christian, Go serve you're God, but leave the children in the world. Satan fights hard for division between family members. He despises unity, whether it is in the home life, or church life.

Be a Christian, says Satan, if you really must, but do not force religion upon the members of your family, and especially do not tease your children with it. They are too young to understand such things. Let them be happy now; there is enough time for serious concerns when they grow up. If you press spiritual things upon them today, you will nauseate them, and drive them to infidelity.

Snare No # 4

"Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and said, "Go, worship the Lord. Even your women and children may go with you: only leave your flocks and herds behind " (Ex. 10:24).

Satan disputed every inch of Israel's way out of the land of Egypt! He first sought to *keep* them in the land, then to keep them *near* the land, next, to *keep part of them in the land*, and finally, when he could not succeed in any of these three, he sought to send them forth *without any ability to serve the Lord*.

If he could not keep the servants, he would seek to keep their ability to serve, which would answer much the same end. If he could not induce them to sacrifice in the land, he would send them out of the land without sacrifices"! (C.H.M.)

Go, serve the Lord, only leave your flocks and your herds behind" was Pharaoh's attempt for compromise. But Moses says NO! They come with us. The flocks and herds belonged to Jehovah, and with Jehovah's people they must go.

When the Devil can't possibly hinder you from leaving his kingdom, he tries hard to mar and murder your influence for good. The Israelites could not serve their God acceptably without personal sacrifice. Nor can us.

The application of the spiritual principle contained in this 4th compromise is not hard to discover.

Satan says, "Give yourselves to God if you must; but do not consecrate your possessions to His service", that's his petition.

The animals definitely speak of "blood sacrifice". Satan knows that God-pleasing service will be impossible if it is not consecrated by blood. Any service to God without the shed blood of Christ applied to the worshipper is unacceptable and rejected altogether.

The animals also speak of the believer's earthly possessions. Look at the wealth of those who bear the name of Christ. How it has piled up! And where is it all? Surely in Egypt! How much of it is held as a sacred trust for Christ?

Is not the greater part of it used to gratify self! Of old, God charged His people with *robbing* Him of His tithes and offerings (Mal. 3:8). And the same charge can justly be laid against most of us today.

"But Moses said, "You must allow us to have sacrifices and burnt offerings to present the LORD our God. Our livestock too must go with us; not a hoof is to be left behind. We have to use some of them in worshipping the LORD our God, and until we get there we will not know what we are to use to worship the LORD" (10:25, 26).

And the LORD brought them out of Egypt with a mighty hand (Deut. 6:21)!

Soli Deo Gloria

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