

When We Get in Our Own Way

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 3:1-7

INTRODUCTION.

- A. What hinders us from obeying the Lord?
 - 1. The world and its influences?
 - 2. Our jobs?
 - 3. Our friends?
 - 4. Our families?
 - 5. Our spouses?
 - 6. Sometimes it makes us feel a bit less guilty if we can blame other people and situations.
- B. However, the reality is we are our greatest obstacles in serving the Lord. We self-sabotage our own efforts, our own faith, our own hope, etc. We get in our own way when trying to serve the Lord.
- C. In this lesson, we will consider five Bible examples of people who got in their own way of serving the Lord.

I. PEOPLE WHO GOT IN THEIR OWN WAY.

- A. Adam and Eve got in their own way of obeying the Lord. (Genesis 3:1-24)
 - 1. What caused the hinderance? Adam and Eve listened to someone other than the Lord. (vs 1-6)
 - a. Eve listened to the serpent.
 - b. Adam listened to Eve.
 - 2. The consequence: God drove Adam and Eve from them garden.
 - a. They lost their presence with God.
 - b. They lost both their spiritual lives as well as their physical lives. (cf. Genesis 2:16-17)

- B. Moses got in his own way at Meribah. (Numbers 20:1-13)
1. What caused the hinderance? Moses did not believe the Lord. (vs 12) The Lord said, *"Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel..."* (vs 12) Moses should have believed the Lord and trusted the Lord.
 2. The consequence: The Lord did not allow Moses to enter the promise land. (vs 12)
- C. King Saul got in his own way while encamped against the Philistines in Michmash. (1 Samuel 13:1-15)
1. What caused the hinderance? King Saul was impatient, waiting on Samuel. Saul's impatience led to him disobeying the Lord. (vs 8-12)
 2. The consequence: The Lord would take the kingdom from Saul and give it a man after His own heart. (vs 13-14)
- D. The rich young ruler got in his own way of accepting what Jesus taught. (Matthew 19:16-22)
1. What caused the hinderance? The rich young ruler had many possessions and great wealth. His connection to these possessions was greater than His desire to follow Jesus.
 2. The consequence: The young man walked away from Jesus and He walked away from treasures in heaven. (cf. Matthew 6:19-21)
 3. The love of the world will lead to the same hinderances. (1 John 2:15-17)
- E. Peter got in his own way of confessing Jesus Christ. (Luke 22:54-62)
1. What caused the hinderance? It is very likely Peter feared admitting being a disciple of Jesus. Consider the intensity of Peter's third denial. Mark wrote, *"Then he (Peter) began to curse and swear, 'I do not know this Man of whom you speak!'"* (Mark 14:71)
 2. The consequence: Peter felt great sorrow and remorse for what he had done. *"Peter went out and wept bitterly."* (vs 62; Matthew 26:75; Mark 14:72)

- a. Peter had been overconfident in his resolve to never deny the Lord.
(Matthew 26:31-35)
- b. Peter did the very thing he said he would not do.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Are we getting in our own way like those seen in this lesson?
 - 1. Are we like Adam and Eve, allowing the words of another person to lead us away from the Lord?
 - 2. Are we like Moses, allowing a lack of trust in the Lord to get in our way of obeying and showing the Lord to be holy?
 - 3. Are we like King Saul, allowing impatience and arrogance to keep us from obeying the Lord.
 - 4. Are we like the rich young ruler, allowing a love of this world to lead us away from treasures in heaven.
 - 5. Are we like Peter, allowing fear to get in our way of confessing Jesus Christ to the world?
- B. If we have gotten in our own way, there is still hope.
 - 1. Although Moses was unable to enter the promise land, we see him on the mount of transfiguration talking with Jesus. (Matthew 17:1-13)
 - 2. Peter was fully restored to being a servant of the Lord. (John 21; Luke 22:32)
 - 3. The gospel offers forgiveness and a new start when we stop getting in our own way.
- C. If you are not a Christian, then obey the gospel of Jesus Christ and be saved.
 - 1. Hear His words of salvation.
 - 2. Trust Him whom God sent to die for your sins.
 - 3. Turn away from a love for this world and seek the wonderful treasures of heaven.
 - 4. Confess your belief in Jesus Christ, turn away from your sins, and be buried with Christ through baptism today.

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by John M. Duvall – May 3, 2026 – File #: 1035 – Christian Living

Preached at the Seminole Pointe church of Christ in Edmond, Oklahoma