

Don't Make the Same Mistakes as Israel

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➤ Intro:

- **illus.:** when I was growing up, my dad told me he tried to look at the mistakes of other people, and learn from them, so he didn't make the same mistakes
 - as I've got older, I found that it was good advise – avoid a lot of problems
- the mistakes of Israel serve as an example to us, that we don't make the same mistakes
 - **1 Cor. 10:6a, 11a** happened as examples
- don't make the same mistakes as Israel, so you don't suffer similar consequences

➤ Be a positive “can do” person (1 Cor. 10:1-5)

- **1 Cor. 10:1-4** God gave Israel victory over Egypt and blessed them spiritually
 - vs. 1 describe leaving Egypt, passing through the Red Sea, Pharaoh again hardened heart, pursued, military defeated by God in sea
 - vs. 2 baptized into Moses and in the sea – **spiritual blessing, salvation, as today**
 - vs. 3-4 given spiritual food and drink by God – **we have the bread from heaven, God's word, eternal life**
- **1 Cor. 10:5** God not pleased with most of them, stopped trusting in God, and were punished
 - they trusted God when they were in dire distress, but not later after freed from Egypt
 - only two of the adult generation saved, Joshua and Caleb
- **story of spying out Canaan**, promise land, giants, 10 spies said impossible, Joshua and Caleb were positive
 - **Num. 13:30-33** conflicting reports
 - **Num. 14:1-4** people's negative reaction
 - **Num. 14:9-10** people rebelled, wanted to stone Moses and Aaron

➤ - **Jude 1:5** destroyed those in wilderness because not believe, all but Joshua and Caleb

- “can do” person is that way because he **believes** – trusts God
- “can't do” person is that way because he **doesn't believe** – not trust God
- **thought questions:**
 - are you a “can do” or “can't do” person
 - if the church sets out to do something, are you positive or negative – “We can do that!”
 - if personal works need to be done, are you positive or negative – “I can do that!”
 - do your thoughts and actions reflect that you believe, or disbelieve

- **Don't crave evil things (1 Cor. 10:6-10)** – won't do if we're “can do” person
 - **1 Cor. 10:6 don't crave evil**
 - **crave:** long for, eager for, lover (KJV: lust for)
 - **illus.: pregnant women** are often known to have cravings for food, get so bad some send their husbands to the store all times of the day and night
 - **Christians:** control our cravings in respect to sinful things, by controlling desires
 - **Rom. 12:9 love without hypocrisy, abhor evil, cling to good – love, abhor, cling – cling wrap**
 - **Mk. 12:30 love God all heart, soul, mind, strength – not crave evil**
 - **Col. 3:5 consider members of our earthly body as dead to immorality – not crave evil**
 - **1 Cor. 9:27 discipline bodies, make it our slave – not crave evil**

- - **1 Cor. 10:7 don't be an idolater** – Israel worshiped golden calf, got tired waiting on Moses
 - **Col. 3:5 idolatry is putting anything or anyone before God**
 - **illus.: go fishing on Sunday** rather than assemble with saints for worship – **fishing is your idol**
 - **illus.: steal a car – car is your idol**
 - **illus.: tell a lie to get a promotion – work is your idol**
 - **anything we put before God becomes our idol**

- - **1 Cor. 10:8 don't act immorally** (sexual immorality, fornication) - when Israel sinned, deceived by Balak as instructed by Balaam, stumbled at the trickery of sinful men, punished, 23k died in one day
 - **illus.: in Corinth, there were not less than 1k prostitutes supported by a single pagan temple, to promote and facilitate fornication**
 - **sexual immorality often occurs among people who practice idolatry**
 - **Ho. 4:6-10, 11-15a Israel's harlotry (fornication)**, departing from God and adopting false religious practices, idolatry
 - **Ho. 4:6 without knowledge, destroyed, commit spiritual harlotry (fornication)**, judged., punished (**Rom. 1:16**) – **illus.: Bereans**
 - **1 Cor. 6:18-20 flee immorality, glorify God in body – or it's harlotry (spiritual fornication)**
 - **when we place someone or something before God (Col. 3:5), we are engaging in spiritual fornication (adultery)**

- - **1 Cor. 10:9-10 don't test the Lord or grumble** - Israel became impatient with God, grumbled, even after he delivered them continually from their enemies
 - **Num. 21:1-3, 4-5 Israel's impatience, grumbling and complaining, discontent**
 - **Num. 21:6-9 God's salvation, look upon fiery bronze serpent**
 - **this is like our salvation today**
 - **Jn. 3:14-16, 36 not believe and look at fiery bronze serpent – believe, obey Jesus**
 - **Jn. 3:3, 5 born again, water and Spirit**
 - **Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38 believe and baptized, receive gift of Holy Spirit**
 - **we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory, to be saved must believe and obey Jesus**
 - **baptized for forgiveness of sins**

- **Remain humble (1 Cor. 10:11-12)** – we’ll be humble, if we’re “can do” Christians
 - **1 Cor. 10:11-12** example, be careful, when you think you’re strong (stand), take heed that you don’t fall
- - **Israel became haughty lost their faith, sinned** – got too big for their britches
 - **Rom. 11:20a** Jews (branches) broken off because of their **unbelief**
 - **we must be careful not to become conceited, and lose our faith**
 - **Rom. 11:20b** Paul’s admonition, not to make same mistake as Israel
- **Always take the way of escape (1 Cor. 10:13)** – we will, if we’re “can do” Christians
 - **1 Cor. 10:13** always take the way of escape
 - **illus.: problem with Israel** is that they **didn’t take the way of escape**, because **didn’t believe**, because they **didn’t remain humble**
 - **1 Cor. 10:13** God will do his part
 - #1 **He’s be faithful**, not let us down, or leave us alone
 - #2 **not let us be tempted beyond** what we can bare
 - **illus.: when someone’s tempted, I know they can overcome**, if couldn’t deal with it, God wouldn’t have let it come upon you”
 - #3 **provide a way of escape**
 - **we have no reason to sin**
 - **illus.: Jesus took the way of escape when He died on the cross**
 - **Jesus tempted in all ways as we are**
 - **must have been tempted to avoid the cross**, despising the shame, when prayed with vehement cries that wouldn’t have to drink the cup of suffering on the cross
 - **if that were the case, He took the way of escaped**, by dying on the cross
 - **desired to do God’s will more than avoid the cross**
 - **if we remain humble and believe, we’ll always take the way of escape** – no matter the cost
 - **thought question:**
 - **Is your faith so strong** you’ll always take the way of escape? – predetermined?
- **Summary / Inv.**
 - **don’t make the same mistakes as Israel**
 - **be a positive “can do” person**
 - **don’t crave evil things**
 - **remain humble**
 - **always take the way of escape**
 - **inv.:** if you humbly believe in God, you’ll want to take the way of escape, to be saved from your sins
 - **Jn. 3** believe in Jesus, obey Him, be born again by water and the Spirit, by being baptized into Christ