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, persued, 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 that 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