

Volcano or Mountain?

I. Slide #1 Announce:

- A. Belize Fund Raiser Today. Tony/Shirley Murrillo's burritos, only \$3 [after all 3 services, by donut table]
- B. Christian Foster families needed: *Rancho Jireh Foster Homes* will host an information meeting Mon, May 7th, see poster on the bulletin board.

II. Slide #2 Intro:

- A. When asked to account for the sleeping giant Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines (asleep some 500yr), a research scientist from the *Philippines Department of Volcanology* observed, "When a volcano is silent for many years, our people forget that it's a volcano and begin to treat it like a mountain"
 - 1. Like Mount Pinatubo, **our sinful nature** always has the potential to erupt, bringing great harm both to ourselves and to others.
 - a) The biggest mistake we can make is to *ignore the volcano* and move back onto what seems like a dormant *mountain*.
 - 2. Never forget, **your old nature is a Volcano...not** simply a **mountain!**
- B. Let's fly at 30,000 feet for a minute & look down at Romans.
 - 1. **Justification** is an accomplished event for the Christian (ch.'s 3-5)
 - 2. Now Paul is describing the process of the believers **Sanctification** (ch's 6-8).
 - a) Rom.6 = Freed from **Sin**. Rom.7 = Freed from **Law**. Rom.8 = Free to **Live by the Spirit**.
 - 3. Does **free** mean easy? No way. *Positional freedom* in Christ *doesn't guarantee constant experiential freedom* from our sin nature.
- C. As Paul used the analogy of **slavery** in ch.6, **now** he uses the *metaphor of marriage* to illustrate our freedom from **the law**.

D. Slide #3 Outline:

- 1. **The Law is Dead to Me** (New Husband, New Fruit, New Service);
- 2. **The Law: Reveals(Sin), Arouses(Sin), Ruins(the Sinner), Reflects(the Sinfulness of Sin)**

III. Slide #4 THE LAW IS DEAD TO ME! (1-6)

- A. **Slide #5 NEW HUSBAND!** (1-3)
- B. We haven't only died to **sin**(6:2) **but** also to the **law**(7:4).
 - 1. Thus, **the law no longer wields authority over us**.
 - 2. Paul laid down the principle that the law exercises lordship over a person only as long as that person "*lives*".
 - a) Death cancels the Law's claim upon that individual.

3. To illustrate this he uses **the covenant of marriage**.

a) A married woman is legally bound to her husband as long as he **lives**.

(1) I got a call as a brand new Pastor in the early 90's from Romaine (Chuck Smiths Assist Pastor). That usually wasn't good. "Mr. Bell, do you marry people that are already married?" A lady had come in that was married to a person I was doing pre-marital counseling with. He said it was divorced. We discussed the divorce. We stopped the counseling.

(2) *No, you can't marry someone that is still married!*

b) But if he **dies**, she is free to marry another man.

c) She is "*released*" – *katargeo*; to render inoperative, abolish.

(1) (i.e.) She is *completely* absolved or discharged.

(a) **Ps**: it can be seen as a special thing if a widow/er remarries right away. "Marriage was good to them"!

4. The death of the believer took place *when* by faith that person became identified w/ the *crucified* Christ.

a) **Slide #6** I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Gal.2:20

C. **Think about it...** If a marriage must be based on **laws** instead of **love**, it is going to make for an *unhappy* home.

1. We were in bondage to **sin & written regulations**. **Law** was our old master.

Now we are **set free to serve** our New Master in a new way, in the Spirit.

2. Be true to your husband, *Jesus Christ!*

D. **Slide #7 NEW FRUIT!** (4,5)

E. The *sinful passions* our **old nature** only brought forth **fruit to death**.

Our **death to the Law**, our **remarriage to Christ** brings forth **fruit to God**.

1. NLT, *As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God.*

F. The purpose of this death then is not to *make us a widow/widower*, **but that** we might *belong to another* husband!

1. Our Savior becomes our new "*husband*"!

2. **Why? That, we should bear fruit to God!**

3. Roy Hession in *The Calvary Road* said, "We are not called upon to produce the fruit, but simply to bear it."

G. **Slide #8 NEW SERVICE!** (6)

H. Now, we will **serve in the newness of the Spirit**.

1. No longer serving from guilt. No longer from a “*have to*” mindset. No longer from a “trying to please Him” standpoint.

IV. **Slide #9 THE LAW: REVEALS, AROUSES, RUINS, & REFLECTS!** (7-12)

A. **Slide #10 Johann Wolfgang von Goethe** [YuHan Wufgan von Goo-Ter] (German poet, dramatist, novelist, scientist) said, “God had enough for a saint & a devil, and He put it **all** in me.”

1. Maybe you’ve felt the same at times in your Christian walk.

B. **Believers, do you long to live on a higher plane?** - **But** do you find yourself constantly being *dragged to the abyss of disobedience by the power of sin?*

1. **Struggle & conflict** are typical of Christian experience. **Defeat & Despair don’t have to be!**

C. **Slide #11 THE LAW REVEALS SIN!** (7b)

D. (7) **If the law cannot change us or control us...What good is it?**

1. To **reveal sin**, and it does its job well!
2. Example the Law revealed **Covetousness** as sin. **Covetousness** is simply craving more of what you have enough of already.¹

E. **A stick** plunged into a **stream** will at once show *the direction of the current*.

1. A **law** plunged into our heart will at once show the direction of our **flesh nature**.

F. **Slide #12,13 THE LAW AROUSES SIN!** (8)

G. (8) **Taking opportunity** – (lit.) *Taking a starting point*.

1. **A base** for military operations for an expedition. (LKGNT)

a) Paul knew **sin** had a **base camp** in our **souls** which is constantly carrying out missions against us!

b) **It’s hard** fighting an enemy **on their soil**...**but even harder** to fight against *hidden terrorist in our own country!* **And such is sin!!!**

(1) **A hidden terrorist** is hard to spot because they’re **not easily identifiable**. They don’t wear a uniform, but purposely blend in with the rest.

(2) They do their best to remain **hidden** and are **spread** all over the world.

(3) There are also “**sleeper cells**” which means that they are **dormant** or on **standby**. One of the purposes of these kinds of groups is to simply **blend in** and remain **undetected** until they are told to carry out their attack.

¹ Haddon Robinson

- (a) Thus **our sinful nature** lurks in our souls. It isn't always easily identifiable. It remains hidden. It is spread all over our mind, soul, body. It lies dormant or on standby. It blends in & remains undetected until it is ready to carry out its attack against us or others.

H. Paul learned that *the Law* even aroused evil desires in him!

1. **Wow!** If something as holy as **God's law**(12) can arouse sinful desires, what wicked sinners we must be!
2. **Can your conscience relate to these thoughts...**
 - a) *"I know **Adultery** to be wrong, but as I watch this TV show I find myself rooting for this couple as they seem so right for each other, even made for each other!"*
 - b) *"I know that is not how a Christian should behave by **talking with his fists**, but man can he fight!"*
3. **Yes we know unmistakably that knowing God's laws arouses evil desires in us also!**
 - a) This is also what gives it the characteristic of transgression!
4. The **Law** brings out the worse in us, **but Love** brings out the best in us!

I. **Slide #14 THE LAW RUINS THE SINNER!** (9-11)

J. (11) **Sin...deceived me** – *The trouble with **trouble** is that it usually starts out as a whole lot of fun.*

K. **Slide #15 THE LAW REFLECTS THE SINFULNESS OF SIN!** (12,13)

L. (12) Therefore the law is **holy**, and the commandment **holy and just and good**.

1. And yet it **reveals sin**(7), **provokes sin**(8), & results in **death**(9-11)
2. **What does this bring to light concerning the character of sin?**
 - a) **Wow!** It is powerful!

M. **So is our problem a Law problem or a Nature problem?** (*Nature problem*)

N. **Slide #16 1st Example:** If I place in a bottle, **Baking Soda** (representing our Nature)

1. It is still & quiet until another substance is added.
2. If I then pour **Vinegar** (representing the Law)
 - a) It begins to **smoke & bubble up**, **but not from the fault of the vinegar**, **but from the nature of the Baking Soda** which will not endure it.
3. **Thus proving**, the **law** is not at fault, **but our evil & wicked nature** is!

O. **Slide #17 2nd Example:** It's a sunny summer day & you decide to jump in the water at the beach in Oceanside. It feels great. While swimming you notice a sign on the pier, *"No swimming sharks in the water!"* Your day is ruined.

1. Is it the signs fault? - Are you angry w/the people who put the sign up?
2. The **law** is like the **sign**. It is essential & you should be grateful for it. – But it doesn't get rid of the sharks!

P. **Slide #18** 3rd Example: When you read "*Wet Paint, Don't touch*" what do you immediately want to do? Or, "No U-Turns", "Keep off the Grass".

Q. **Slide #19** St. Augustine tells in his *Confessions* (pg.29) that he stole **pears** from a pear tree...& didn't even like pears!

1. He did it because it was *forbidden*!
2. Growing up in Whittier, our house backed up to Monte Vista H.S. - Me & my friend Steve committed **breaking & entering** for **Tennis Balls!** [& neither of us played tennis!]
 - a) It's not a Law problem...it's a nature problem!

R. **End:** Remember, our old nature is like a **Volcano** not just a *mountain*!

1. But look what God can make from an old Volcano!
 - a) **Slide #20-22** Show Lake Pinatubo!