

Isaiah 15,16

7-15-04

“Smashing Pride!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. **Extreme!**
 - 1.1.1. Drivers Ed – I remember them showing us “Red Asphalt”!
 - 1.1.2. We love Extreme anything these days. – Arena Football, Extreme BMX, Extreme Mountain Biking, Extreme Skateboarding, Extreme Moto Cross Big Air Practice, The X-Games(Aug.8-17), Wakeboard, sky Surfing, Running of the Bulls. (next...X-Treme Badmittin?)
 - 1.1.2.1. My favorite Niagara Falls(old days in barrels, now...read)
 - 1.1.3. Here we have an “Extreme Warning!”
 - 1.1.3.1. Extreme = “highest in intensity or degree.”
 - 1.1.3.2. “Don’t shoot rubber bands at your sister...you’ll put her eye out!!!”
 - 1.1.3.3. Singapore? – “Cigarettes will Kill You!” – Big Sign on carton.
- 1.2. Moab lies East of the southern end of the Dead Sea(present day Jordan).
 - 1.2.1. Incestuous relationship Lot & his Daughter. (Gen.19:37)
 - 1.2.2. King Balak asked Balaam to place a curse on Israel. (Numb 22-24)
 - 1.2.3. Then, their women seduced the Israelite men. (Numb 31:15-17)
 - 1.2.4. Under Moab’s King Eglon they oppressed Israel for 18 yrs (Judges 3:12-14) [until Ehud stabbed him]
 - 1.2.5. There was always endless wars between Moab & Israel.

2. WEEPING & FLEEING! (Ch.15)

- 2.1. Weeping! (1-5)
- 2.2. (1) 2 cities already destroyed in Isaiah day – Ar & Kir.
 - 2.2.1. Both near the bottom end of the Dead Sea.
- 2.3. (2) Often people turn to *religion* in their grief.
- 2.4. (4) Even their soldiers are as overwhelmed as the civilians.
- 2.5. Fleeing! (5-9)
- 2.6. The Prophets heart is leaking out!
 - 2.6.1. Q: How does this prophets heart compare to Jonah’s?
 - 2.6.2. Lord in your wrath, mercy! (Hab.3:2)
 - 2.6.3. This is how our hearts should be for the lost, anytime we need to deal with sin & death & hell!

3. HIDING & COLLIDING! (Ch.16)

- 3.1. **Hiding!** (1-5)
- 3.2. **Sela** - For security the Moabites fled south 50 miles to Sela(aka Petra)in Edom.
 - 3.2.1. Explain Petra's "fortress" feel!
 - 3.2.2. Edom trusted in this 'safe place' also!
 - 3.2.2.1. **Read - Obadiah 1:1,3,4**
 - 3.2.3. **Show Photo's.**
 - 3.2.4. **Show Map.**
 - 3.2.5. **Q: In what do you place you trust in?**
- 3.3. Since Jerusalem wasn't going to be overthrown (until the Assyria invasion) Zion/Jerusalem would be there only **safe haven**.
 - 3.3.1. They were to send **lambs**, *the traditional Moabite Tribute*, ahead of them.
- 3.4. (3,4) So they sought refuge there.
- 3.5. (5) Sling shot ahead to the ultimate rescue when Messiah comes!
- 3.6. **Colliding!** (6-14)
- 3.7. (6) **Here is the reason for ALL of this!- X-Treme Pride!!!**
 - 3.7.1. Moab is **a story of opposition** to the work & will of God coming from Pride & conceit.
 - 3.7.2. Numb.32:23 "...take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and **be sure your sin will find you out.**"
 - 3.7.3. **Pride** is a sin that God hates whether it is in **nations** or **individuals**.
 - 3.7.3.1. Ultimately God will always bring down the pride of people & nations. History is littered w/that truth! ¹
 - 3.7.4. Here we have Self-Esteem overflowing in every direction!
 - 3.7.5. Interesting definition of one form of Pride(knowledge) "The wearying, futile pursuit of knowledge, is a flesh trip that can cause a **head to outgrow a heart!**"
 - 3.7.6. **Question?** – The older we are in the Lord, & the more mature we get, do we see **more** or **less pride** in our life?
 - 3.7.6.1. **More!** – As the sun rises, its beams strike lower & yet lower down the pit!²

¹ Philip Hacking; pg.61

- 3.8. So what's the high road if Pride is the low road? (What's the opposite?)
- 3.8.1. **Humility!**
- 3.8.2. Epitomized in John the Baptists, "He must be on the **increase** & I must be on the **decrease!**" (my paraphrase)
- 3.8.3. Remember he was the **bridegroom's friend** not the bridegroom.
- 3.8.3.1. He enjoyed the bridegroom's **voice!**
- 3.8.3.2. He was content that **his own popularity** should **fade.**
- 3.8.4. This is the battle of continually trying to master the **self-life.**
- 3.8.4.1. It **constantly intrudes** into our **every thought!**
- 3.8.4.2. It has an **inevitable commentary** on everything we say or do!
- 3.8.4.3. It is our greatest struggle!
- 3.8.4.4. It is so hungry for prominence & praise!
- 3.8.4.5. We are even tempted to be **proud** of **our own humility!**
- 3.8.5. Good News, there **is** deliverance from what Paul cried, "O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?"
- 3.8.6. "Thanks be to God--**through Jesus Christ our Lord!** So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin. Therefore, there is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus,"
- 3.8.6.1. Our self-life has been nailed to the Savior's Cross!
- 3.8.6.2. Our old self was crucified w/Christ!
- 3.8.6.2.1. "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."
- 3.8.7. **Bottom line?** – The self-life may not be dead, but we are dead to it!
- 3.8.8. If you **graft** on a **fruit bearing branch** onto a **non-fruit bearing tree**, you must constantly make sure you clip off any shoots **under** the new branch, or it will drain off the sap.
- 3.8.8.1. The old self-life is always sending out shoots, & so we must be merciless to them.
- 3.8.9. **Hymn!** (here's the progression!)
- 3.8.10. **All** of self & **None** of Thee! **Some** of self & **Some** of Thee!
Less of self & **More** of Thee! **None** of self & **All** of Thee! [Pastor Theodore Monod of Paris]

² F.B.Meyer; The 5 Must's of the Christian Life; pg.39