

THE DANGER OF SETTLING FOR LESS

Every step forward will introduce a new reason to settle

Numbers 13:1-3, 17-20, 26-14:4, 30

Settling is a part of daily life. It happens through compromising my conviction, the payout is raised high enough or the obstacles become hard enough, that I compromise my previous conviction and settle on a new way of thinking. Forward movement, however, promises fresh obstacles and new opportunities to compromise. Life is filled with worthy compromises and wise settlements, but when it comes to the promises and will of God, it's a dangerous thing to settle for less.

1. Settling for less means God intends more (13:1-3)

- There is a danger of reducing the Gospel to a one-time response
- What does God intend for you as a Christian

A. Settling is empowered by fear (13:31)

- There is something about fear that paralyzes us
- 2 Timothy 1:7

B. Settling is a commitment to mediocrity

- God says plenty about mediocre Christians
- Revelation 3:15-16

C. Settling is a result of unbelief

- There was something about the obstacles that caused them to doubt What God could do through them
- Galatians 2:20
- We believe that God can do whatever he wants, but he can't use us to do it
- God can work in: his life, her life, their church, their family, their marriage...but not mine
- If you deceive yourself into believing that when it comes to the grace of God that your case is an exception, then you will become one

2. Settling for less will eventually send me backwards

- God's call in obedience is always forward
- Settling will sour you- just like water that stops moving, we become stagnant
- The longer I stay settled, the harder it becomes for me to move forward
- Soren Kierkegaard, the Danish philosopher, told a story about a goose who was wounded and who landed in a barnyard with some chickens. He played with the chickens and ate with the chickens. After a while that goose thought he was a chicken. One day a flight of geese came over, migrating to their home. They gave a honk up there in the sky, and he heard it. Kierkegaard said, "Something stirred within the breast of this goose. Something called him to the skies. He began to flap the wings he hadn't used, and he rose a few feet into the air. Then he stopped, and he settled back again into the mud of the barnyard. He heard the cry, but he settled for less."

A. Settling causes me to question why I ever started

B. Settling is outright rebellion against God (14:9)

- To reject God's will is to embrace your own
- Proverbs 3:5-6. What is the inverse of Proverbs 3:5-6?

C. Settling forfeits my future blessings

- You have to run the race to the end to claim the prize

3. Settling for less is a choice, and I don't have to make it

- The reality is: No Christian can live happily settled ever after in this world
- Here is the good news, Jesus could have settled, but he didn't
- Hebrews 12:2-3; Joshua 24:15