

THE WAYS WE DEVASTATE OUR LIVES DEUTERONOMY 28:15,20,25,47

How would you respond if someone came up to you and asked you this question, “How would you like to destroy your life, your future, as well as your family and all that you put your hands to?” No doubt you would pull back and look that person in the eye and say something like this- “Man there is no way I want to destroy my life, much less my family and my future.” But sadly all across America in many homes that is exactly what is taking place this morning. Without parents being asked the question, they are slowly but surely destroying their lives, and destroying the lives of their children, not to mention their future.

In truth all throughout Scripture, you can find men and women who for one reason or another, made some moves in their lives that resulted in devastation and destruction. While I know you would never want to destroy your life, I want you to listen carefully to this message and see if there are any of these principles that God allows to leap off the page to your life. Because God loves us with an infinite love, He can’t stand to see our lives wrecked and ruined. But because He does love us enough, He will give us full warning when we are on the brink of bringing disaster and destruction into our lives.

1. WE DEVASTATE OUR LIVES WHEN WE FAIL TO REALIZE THAT WE HAVE BEEN CREATED BY GOD AND FOR GOD.

In the Book of Genesis, God makes it plain that He created man. Behind the genius of His creation was the desire of God to have an intimate, close and abiding relationship with Adam and Eve. While God knew what Adam and Eve would do, nonetheless, God created them for His ultimate desire. He created Adam and Eve and had only in mind to bless them all the days of their life, and to bless their descendents. But on one particular day, the Bible declares that Satan came to Eve and tempted her and rather than listening to the God who loved her, created her, and had a wonderful plan for her life, Eve listened and gave in to the devil. She decided to eat of the forbidden fruit. She decided to do things according to “satanic suggestion”. Little did she realize that the moment she followed that course of action, she would destroy the perfect peace, and home that God had in mind for her and Adam.

When we refuse to acknowledge that God has created us, and had a wonderfully divine will for our lives, and go off on our own to do our own thing, we will begin to destroy our lives. We will soon ask, “How did I get here?” or “Why in the world are all these things happening to my life?” the answer can be found in the very fact that we have completely violated the will of God for our life and there is no other way to go but down. Adam and Eve went spiraling downward. The greatest destroyer of humanity today is this line of thinking, “I can do what I want to do, how I want to do, the way I want to do and no one is going to stop me.” That line of thinking always under all circumstances leads to destruction, and it can even lead to death.

2. WE DEVASTATE OUR LIVES WHEN WE LIVE AS THOUGH OUR ACTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES (Gal.6:7).

Only God knows the countless thousands of people are living at the moment “in a party” as if there was no one to give account to. Even a current television add gives this enticing phrase, “What happens here stays here”, as if no one was ever going to find out. When that is completely inaccurate, and untrue. The Bible is plain and, God makes it clear that He is not mocked. In Gal.6:7, He declares that “we will reap whatever we have sown”. The people of Israel mentioned in Deuteronomy were living as though their lives faced no accountability, when it truth, God was getting ready to send sobering judgment upon them- judgment that would definitely gain their undivided attention.

Many individuals devastate their lives by living as though their actions will never be called into account, and they can do as they desire. While God loves us, He makes it abundantly clear there are consequences to all the actions that we commit in life. There are consequences to a young woman who has sexual relations outside of marriage- possible pregnancy. There are consequences to parents who forget their children- their

children will forget them in latter years. A child can innocently place his or her hand over a hot stove, but that innocence doesn't remove the burn, the pain and the possibility of a scar. God's word is filled with people who made decisions but faced the ultimate consequence for their actions.

The nation of Israel lived forgetting God- and they paid a supreme price. God declared as it pleased him to do them good, so he would rejoice to bring ruin into their lives (See. Deut.28:63) In the life of Sampson in the Old Testament, he gave into to a cunning woman and he had his eyes gouged out and was blind till his death.

King Saul made an offering to God (which was only to be done by the priest) and lost his throne forever. King David laid down with Bathsheba, only to find that his consequences would cause the death of his child. Annanias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit of God as was struck with death because of their sin. (Acts 5:1).

Irregardless of what we may think- God's world is true and timeless and will never alter one iota. To think that we can live as we desire and do as we desire without God calling us into account is to play the role of a "fool". Because the Bible says, "A fool says in his heart there is no God." (Ps.14:11)

3. WE DEVASTATE OUR LIVES WHEN WE RUSH INTO DECISIONS WITHOUT CONSULTING GOD FIRST. In Genesis 16 is a prime example of a couple, Abram and Sarai devastated their lives, though they revered God, for a season of time. One of the greatest tools used of Satan to devastate our lives is haste. "Haste" or "hurry" is one of the key ingredients of Satan to destroy our lives if at all possible. A young couple decides by mutual consent that they love each other, thus deciding to commit and ungodly act, only to find themselves embarrassed and ashamed after the fact. An older couple or person decides to make a move that they don't feel comfortable with, but they do so any way reasoning in their mind that "they have the right to do so" but they don't have God's peace about the matter. A young couple decides to get married without failing to realize that fact that they really don't know each other and the end result is devastation and often times divorce.

Only God in heaven knows how many people are dead because they "rushed" from point A to point B only to find that their rushing cost them their lives. Whenever a person rushes into decisions, they will devastate their lives if not for a short time, potentially for the rest of their earthly life. When King Saul rushed to give the offering to God without waiting on God, God declared that his rushing, and refusal to wait on God's prophet and priest would cost him the esteemed kingship that he had enjoyed to that point. Had King Saul backed off and thought about the decision he was getting ready to make by asking, "What will this do in my life?" "Is this decision in obedience to God?" "Am I willing to pay the consequences?" He may well have thought differently about his decision. But sadly, we devastate our lives and our futures all too often because we rush into a decision without consulting God first and fore most. If there is anyone in the world that wants our best, it is God. God is love and therefore His nature is to bring only that which is in line with His nature.

4. WE DEVASTATE OUR LIVES WHEN WE FAIL TO LEARN GOD'S GUIDING TRUTH. Jesus declared, "**You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.**" (Jn.8:32) The Word of God comes from the heart of a perfect God who has only the best in store for our lives, and yearns that we give Him glory, honor and praise. When God gave the 10 commandments in the Old Testament to Israel, He wasn't being hard, strict, but rather He was protecting and providing for His special and chosen nation Israel. He had His blessings in store for His people, and as they followed His Word they would enter into His blessings. However, when they rejected His Word they experienced pain, trouble, chaos, defeat, and even death.

God hasn't given us His Word without having an ultimate goal that we read, absorb and allow His Word to sink deep within our hearts in order that we give to Him the praise and honor that is due His holy name. Whenever we fail to read, and digest God's word, and refuse to apply God's Word, we are positioning our lives for utter disaster. While no logical, thinking person desires their life to be emotionally devastated, that is exactly what happens as long as we shun God's truth. Whenever a person's life becomes a wreck there are certain realities that must take place before our life becomes a wreck. First, there is a refusal to learn and absorb of God's Word. Second, there is a refusal to be taught. While God

wants to teach us His ways and His truth, He will not make us learn. How God yearns to bring into our lives His abundant blessings, but those blessings come by conditions- the condition of an obedient heart, a heart that is willing to openly honestly deal with sin irregardless of how deep the sin may be. Unless we are willing to do it on God's terms, we will always keep God's richest blessings from our lives.