

WOE TO THE PROUD AND OBSTINATE

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Violation: How obnoxious and unhappy are those proud, impatient and obstinate types who seek to control everyone else but can't even control their own life. They demand their own way and speak scornfully of those who don't see things their way. These pompous elitists seek to gain the whole world but in the end they lose it all, including their own soul. These people are high-minded, hard-hearted, stiff necked and as stubborn as a mule especially towards righteousness and God.

Jesus taught in parables to his disciples and revealed secrets of His kingdom to them. However, the religious leaders had issues with their eyes, ears and heart.

You will be ever hearing, but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people's **heart** has become **calloused**; they **hardly hear** with their ears, and they have **closed their eyes**. Otherwise they might see with their eyes. Matthew 13:14-15 NIV

Jesus did not waste time with those who just wanted to argue and trap him with questions. He often just asked them questions. The apostle Paul advised his young disciple Timothy to **avoid stupid and foolish arguments** - 2 Timothy 2:23. It is much better to use one's time in seeking to reach those who are receptive and ripe for the good news of the kingdom of God than to get entangled with distractions.

Never argue with stupid people, they will drag you down to their level and then beat you with experience. - Mark Twain

In my missionary travels I have found that certain religious groups are more receptive to the message of Jesus than some others. During my first summer in London, our teams that worked among the Jews found the most resistance. I found those of the Sikh religion were more open than the Hindus and the Hindus were more receptive than the Muslims. The Mormons were easier to deal with than the JW's (Jehovah Witnesses). Mormons are more open to the spiritual world and will take your literature, while the JW's are much more legalistic and narrow minded. New Agers are more open than agnostics, atheists and those with scientific backgrounds.

In the book of Exodus we see a prime example of an obstinate person (Exodus chapters 5-13) the Pharaoh of Egypt. He had a **hard heart** towards God. God took note of that unbending stubbornness and caused it to be even harder. (God is able to see if a person will ever change and acts accordingly to use them for his divine purposes.) I have often heard people and even ministers say that it is never too late

to repent and turn to God. That is not true, unfortunately. There is a point when a person rejects the Holy Spirit's calling and influence and says in essence, 'leave me alone'. It is called:

CROSSING GOD'S DEADLINE

He who is often reproofed, and hardens his neck, will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy. - Proverbs 29:1 NKJV

(the following notes are from a sermon by Adrian Rogers)

- **Spiritual conviction** from many sources
 - Spirit of God
 - sickness Psalm 119:67 (reminder that we are mortal)
 - sorrow
 - sweetness Romans 2:4
 - servants, sermons in print
- **Stubborn rebellion** stiff neck (refuse to bow to God's will)
 - procrastination Proverbs 27:1 Exodus 8:9-10
 - pride - pleasures of the world
- **Sudden destruction**
 - strong delusion in the mind 2 Thess. 2:11=12
 - desertion of the Spirit Romans 1:24,26,28
 - death of the body
- **Settled destiny** Hebrews 9:27, John 3:16-21

As I was writing this message, I thought of Pharaoh when I thought of someone with a stubborn heart. I then remembered a message I heard years ago and have on cassette tape by Dwight Thompson called: **Crossing God's Deadline**. I have listened to hundreds of messages in my life, but his would be in the top 5 most powerful. I could not find it on YouTube, but I did find one by Adrian Rogers with the same title. Adrian was one of the greatest preachers in the 20th century. It is rare to hear such authority and conviction in preaching today.

I will quote one line from Dwight Thompson's message regarding a person who made this confession on their deathbed and had not received Jesus.

When I could, I would not.

When I would, I could not.

(The Holy Spirit had left him. It was too late.
He knew he was going to hell.)

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You Tube: Adrian Rogers / Crossing God's Deadline