

APOSTASY – PART 1

--Judges 2:6-15--

INTRODUCTION:

We have all heard of and experienced the generation gap, that difference in terms of attitudes, beliefs, knowledge, experiences, and taste that exists between people born a certain amount of time apart who are living at the same time. This gap is created because generations overlap and those of one generation must learn to live and try to understand the other generation. Because of the values of our own generation instilled in us that seems so right, we have difficulty accepting the values of the new generation. Especially as Christian parents, we fear for our children who live in such a different world and are influenced by things that pull in a different direction from the one we feel they should take. We want our children to follow in the footsteps of faith. Losing our children to the world is no light thing and something I pray no parent must experience. Losing a whole generation is infinitely worse as we will begin to see this morning.

I. THE DEATH JOSHUA, THE LOSS OF A LEADER (Judges 2:6-9)

- a. The opening verses of Judges record the fact that Joshua had _____, using it as a boundary event in the nation of Israel. (Joshua 23:14)
- b. Joshua knew at this assembly that his long life was coming to an end, it was time to hand over the reins of leadership to the next _____.
- c. For a time, all seemed well. Those Joshua dismissed from the assembly at Shechem left with a _____ as we are told in verse 6, each went to take possession of his inheritance.
- d. _____ is such a powerful confidence builder and motivator. In an important sense we are defined by our history.

II. THE LOSS OF A GENERATION (Judges 2:10)

- a. All that generation who had seen the great _____ of the LORD died and a new generation arose. (Joshua 12; 21:43-45)

- b. In Israel, the responsibility of instructing fell first to the _____. (Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Exodus 12:26-27; Psalm 78:5-7; Deuteronomy 31:9-13)
- c. Given all this information, should the responsibility for the loss of this generation that came after the generation of Joshua be _____ on the parents, elders, and leaders of Joshua's generation?
- d. First, we have already noted that the that the "great _____" of God that is on view here is the conquering of the land under Joshua.
- e. Second, since not knowing and not seeing are linked together in this way, we cannot take the lack of "not knowing" as ignorance caused by a _____ of instruction.
- f. Third, and most importantly, in what immediately follows it is the _____ generation, not their parents or the leaders of the previous generation, who are blamed for what happened.
- g. This generation knew their calling as a nation, their "evil" did not arise from a failure on the part of their parents or the former generation, but from their own _____.

CONCLUSION:

What can we take from this passage? Most importantly, the serious responsibility of instructing our children in the way of the Lord. Making the most of opportunities to talk about our faith and modeling our faith to them with our words and our actions. Beside my promise to teach the whole counsel of God, I preach from the Old Testament because Paul when writing to the Corinthians about avoiding the mistakes Israel had made said in 1 Corinthians 10:6, "*Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved.*" (1 Corinthians 10:6, NASB95) We can learn from the mistakes the Israelites made so that we do not make the same mistakes and do evil in the sight of God and forsake Him who gave up His life for us. As you are reminded of these things, teach them to and remind your children and grandchildren about them. Remember your responsibility is to teach your children in the way of the Lord, then they must make the choice of what they are going to do with that instruction, if they are

going to take it to heart and make it their own or whether they will reject it. The ultimate decision is theirs as long as you are faithful to train your child in the way he should go.

Young people, you are the next generation, learn from Israel's mistakes. You have heard of the great work of the Lord during your lifetime. You have been reminded of it in Sunday School and Church. You know what the Lord Jesus Christ did for you on the cross and through His resurrection. Do not turn your back on His grace, love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind and love your neighbor as yourself. The choice is yours, but the decision you make will affect you for all eternity.