

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

July 11

2021

## GIVING INTO PRESSURE

Paul told us in 1 Cor. 10:13, "...God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." Here are some people who didn't find the way of escape and gave into temptation.

### **Adam and Eve.**

In Gen. 3:4-6, the serpent tempted Eve and she saw that, "the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise." Eve knew that she wasn't to eat of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." We see that Eve was tempted three different ways. With these three before her she gave into pressure.

### **Samson.**

In Judges 16:6-18, Delilah came to Samson on three different occasions pressuring him to tell her the secret of his strength. On the fourth time according to Judges 16:15, she said unto him, "how canst thou say I love thee, when thy heart is not with me?" In verse 16 she pressed him daily with

her words. Because of pressure we see in verse 17 that he told her all of his heart.

### **Herod.**

In Mark 6:20-26, we read where Herod feared John yet his wife Herodias wanted John killed. On Herod's birthday Herodias' daughter danced for him and his company and he was pleased with her. Herod told her she could have anything that she asked of him up to half of his kingdom. She came in and asked him for the head of John. Herod was exceedingly sorrowful, but under pressure, he would not reject her.

### **Pilate.**

In Matt. 27:15-26, Pilate had imprisoned Jesus at the request of the people. Beginning in verse 15 Pilate had asked the people if they wanted him to release Barabbas, a thief, or Jesus. The chief priest and the elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus destroyed. In verse 22 the multitude said, "Let him be crucified." Pilate, then under pressure, told them that he washed his hands of this just person.

As you can see sometimes because of giving into pressure that a devastating result can occur. In the first case Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden, and God told them they would surely die. In the second case we see that Samson lost his own life. The third case Herod was pressured into having John killed. In the final case Pilate was also pressured into having an innocent man killed. In all four cases some sort of death occurred. By giving into pressure we too can suffer a spiritual death.

*✍ Michael W. Thomas*

# DOETH THIS OFFEND YOU?

In John 6:61, we read where some disciples murmured at Jesus' teachings. So, Jesus asked the question, "Doth this offend you?" Sometimes we avoid certain subjects because we are afraid of offending someone. The apostle Paul told Timothy to, "Preach The Word" (2 Tim. 4:2). We must be bold when we proclaim God's word, and let the chips fall where they may. Just as in Matt. 13, we read of a sower sowing the word in different types of hearts. I would like to look at a couple of subjects and ask the same question Jesus asked, "Doth this offend you?"

## Giving.

I once heard a gospel preacher say when he asked a congregation what subjects they would like to study, they would usually respond with a series on the home, or prayer, or another popular subject. But, nobody had ever asked him to do a series on giving. Why? Does this subject offend us? When we give, do we give as God as prospered (1 Cor. 16:1-2)? By this, I mean do we give based on a forty hour work week when in fact we worked fifty hours, with ten hours being time and a half? Did we really give as we were prospered, or are we like the Jews offering the blind, the lame, and the sick (Mal. 1:8)? These were not acceptable to God, and just as the offered sparingly then, Christians try to get away with offering sparingly today. Remember, God loveth a cheerful giver (2 Cor. 9:7).

## Forsaking The Assembling.

Does it offend you when someone tries to encourage you to be at every service? We often hear someone say do I have to be here on Wednesday nights? I remember what my dad tells people when they ask him that question. He says, going from Sunday to Sunday was like trying to jump across a creek, and that Wednesday night was like a big stepping stone in the middle which helped us from one side to the other without having to jump or risk falling in. Jesus said, "where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20). What does Jesus think when He's there and you are not? We also read in Heb. 10:25, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is but, exhorting one another."

If these things offend you, you need to take a second look upon yourself, and ask the question, "Why does this offend me?"

*Michael W. Thomas*

## Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

[www.bellevillechurch.net](http://www.bellevillechurch.net)

### Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study .....	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship .....	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship .....	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study .....	7:00 p.m.

### Evangelist

Brad Phillips..... (765) 720-2816