

## *Lesson from the History*

*“Now these things occurred as an example to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry. We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did and in one day twenty three thousand of them died. We should not test the Lord, as some of them did and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble as some of them did and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as an example and were written down as warning for us.” (1 Corinthians 10:6-11)*

We learn from our experience and experiences of others. We learn from our error and errors of others. Events happen around us and give us warning from certain dangers. Mishaps teach us to avoid falling in the same trap where others have fallen. Yet, we learn also by trial and error, we try to do certain thing in the way we think right and we try repeatedly in the past that are written down and documented well. We learn from the history because it shows us the outcome of the errors and failures of men and even how they tried to correct the situation. History gives inspiration to us, not only to learn form it but because history repeats itself.

But why does history repeats itself? The answer for this question is the door of the well-known issue; events are the same because men are still the same. Man from the time of creation up to this moment is the same. Man is sinful and events are repeated because sin is still present in the life of people. Man is the same from the beginning till now. He is sinful and every inclination of the thoughts of his heart is evil. But God is faithful. In spite of all man’s shortcomings God remains unchanging. He is the same, yesterday, today and forever; loving, kind and compassionate to His creation. God is always with His people in spite of man’s fall into sin. God never forsakes His people. He always sends His word of love to us to show man that God is caring. He spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, and in the last days He spoke to us by His Son Jesus. God sends to us His Son to teach us His ways – how to live a life pleasant to God. Jesus took man’s sin when He died on the cross to give eternal life to those who believe in Him.

As we believe in Jesus we follow God’s way. The word of God in the Bible teaches us not to follow the wrong and evil ways; as well it teaches us lessons form the history of God’s people- how they fall away from doing God’s will. In the Old Testament the people of God were in Egypt working as slave under Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Until the Lord God looked to their misery and He brought them out from Egypt into the Promise land. God was walking with them but they did wrong things that displeased God and disqualified them form receiving God’s promises.

*Now these things occurred as an example to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did:*

**1- Do not be idolaters:** Our Lord God is true and living God. He is the Creator who created us and everything around us. He is our father and we are His children. He does not want us to have idols or any given image to worship. *“You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or on the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me.” (Deuteronomy 5:8-9)*

**2- Do not commit sexual immorality:** The people of God in their journey to the Promise land they were exposed to other nations and were tempted to follow their immoral sexual practices; they took their women and slept with them. God’s anger burst against them and within one day 23,000 of them died. Following immoral practices through extramarital sexual relationship and pornography ultimately break our fellowship with God and He will not be happy to walk among us. God is holy and He wants our bodies to be holy. If we live an immoral life God’s blessing is away from us. We lose His presence, His provision and protection to us. Therefore let us cleanse ourselves from such practices.

**3- We should not test the Lord:** How do we test the Lord? When we do wrong things and even we know it is wrong but we continue to do. We abuse God’s grace and patience. We also test the Lord when we don’t put our trust in Him. God is not pleased with people who are unfaithful to Him.

**4- Do not grumble:** Grumbling means being unsatisfied, looking always on negative things and pessimistic concept, lacking hope, lacking faith, always complaining and is never contented in life. If nothing satisfies us how can we become children of God? If we are hardly accepting any offer how can we express our gratitude to God who supplies all our needs? Therefore, *“Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation in which you shine like stars in the universe.” (Philippians 2:14-15)*

**My dear and beloved:** *“These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warning for us, on whom the fulfillment of ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!” (1 Corinthians 16:11-12)* Let us learn from these lessons and examine ourselves, confessing our sins and all the evil thins we did as we pray;

*“Heavenly Father I come before You in the name of Jesus who died for me on the cross and gave me eternal life. Lord, I surrender my life fully to You, remove any unpleasant attitude that I have; cleanse me and keep me away from idolatry, immorality, and grumbling. Take my hands and lead me to the everlasting life. I pray in Jesus’ name, Amen.”*