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The Frog Lover

Pharaoh

Exodus 8:8–10

SCRIPTURES TO READ

Exod. 8:8–10; Acts 24:25; 2 Cor. 6:1–2;
James 4:13–17; Rom. 15:4

DEFINITION

The word *procrastination* means
“to put off from day to day, postpone, delay.”

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Yesterday is in the tomb of time, tomorrow is in
the womb of time, and today is all you are guaranteed.

SENTENCE SERMON

Tomorrow is a date on the fool’s calendar.

BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION

1. God sent Moses and Aaron to convince Pharaoh to free the Israelites (Exod. 7–12).
2. When Pharaoh refused to release His people, God sent a series of ten plagues upon Egypt and Pharaoh: turning the Nile River into blood, and sending frogs, lice, flies, death of the cattle, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, and death of the first born.
3. Each of these plagues was a display of God’s power and might and an attack upon the idolatrous worship of Egyptian gods.

Voices from the Past

4. Pharaoh made a most interesting but sad statement after the plague of the frogs was sent. He said that he would decide if he would release the Jews tomorrow (Exod. 8:10). In other words, let me spend one more night with these frogs and then I will decide.
5. After the frogs, followed by eight more plagues, he finally released the Jews, only to change his mind and go after them. This is where he met his death (12:31–33; 14:5–7, 18–19, 26–31; 15:19).
6. Just think of all the trouble, heartache, and suffering Pharaoh could have avoided had he listened to Moses and Aaron instead of procrastinating: tomorrow!
7. The Egyptians worshiped the Nile River, amphibians, cattle, fruit trees, wings of flies, and other material things. Imagine how they must have felt seeing their gods destroyed and blotted out.

INTERESTING FACTS

1. “I will tomorrow” is lying to and deceiving oneself.
2. Procrastination will rob one of doing what is really important.
3. A procrastinating attitude is a thief.
4. “Later” and “tomorrow” are words in Satan’s dictionary.
5. There is absolutely nothing that one cannot do—tomorrow. “Tomorrow is the perfect time to do anything.” How foolish.
6. Pharaoh assumed there would be another tomorrow.
 - The Lord begs the young and the young say, “Some other day.”
 - The Lord begs the tall healthy young man, and he says, “My career calls now.”
 - The Lord begs the man in his prime, and he says, “When I have more time—some other day.”
 - The Lord begs the worn gray-haired man, and he says, “I am too busy and tired—some other day.”
 - The Lord begs the old feeble man with a cane, and he says, “I have wasted a lifetime in sin, and now I have no other day. What have I done!”

The Frog Lover

FIVE AREAS AFFECTED BY WAITING UNTIL TOMORROW

1. The church. Waiting until tomorrow to be a faithful Christian will harm the church.
2. Your soul. Waiting until tomorrow to obey God could send your soul to everlasting hell.
3. Your children. Waiting until tomorrow to be a Christian parent will affect your children's lives and souls.
4. Your mate. Waiting until tomorrow to do what is right will cause your mate hardship.
5. Waiting until tomorrow to be a faithful Christian will cause you to waste time that you could be using for God and His ways.

PROCRASTINATION'S CHALLENGING LESSONS

1. You will advise, encourage, and become a counsel to wickedness (Nahum 1:11–12).
2. You will consent to sin (Prov. 1:10; Rom. 1:32).
3. You will become a partaker of sin (2 John 10–11).
4. You will become guilty by silence (Isa. 58:1).
5. You will become a defender of evil (Prov. 17:15).
6. You will become a compromiser with wickedness (1 Kings 18:22; Matt. 12:30).
7. You will limit God from blessing you (Ps. 71:41).
8. You will allow worldly cares to be your priority (Mark 4:19).
9. You will be telling the world that you do not love the Master (John 14:15).
10. You will be counting on there being a tomorrow, which is foolish (James 4:13–17).

ONE GREAT LESSON IN SUMMARY

Choosing to put off obedience to God is not only foolish but is also an eternal mistake.

Voices from the Past

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Yesterday is in the _____ of time, _____ is in the _____ of time, and today is all you are _____.
2. _____ is a date on the _____ calendar.
3. (Y / N) The death of the firstborn was the first plague God sent.
4. Name the ten plagues in order.
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____
 - 5) _____
 - 6) _____
 - 7) _____
 - 8) _____
 - 9) _____
 - 10) _____
5. Each plague was a display of God's _____ and _____.
6. Finish the foolish reasoning, " _____ is the perfect _____ to do anything."
7. (T / F) According to Exodus 14–15, Pharaoh's army died of starvation.
8. Procrastination will _____ one from doing what is really _____.
9. How will procrastination affect your soul? _____
10. Pharaoh _____ there would be another _____.

Begetting Ashdodites

Unfaithful Judah

Nehemiah 13:23–24

SCRIPTURES TO READ

Neh. 13:23–27; Judg. 12:6; Jer. 22:29;
Matt. 26:73; 1 Cor. 1:10; 1 Pet. 4:1; Rom. 15:4.

DEFINITION

The name *Ashdod* means “stronghold.”

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Speaking only half of God’s words is nothing
but compromise with the religious world.

SENTENCE SERMON

When we cease speaking Bible language,
we lose our identity.

BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION

1. Both Zerubbabel and Ezra had led groups of Jews from Babylon back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and restore (re-teach) the law.
2. Nehemiah received word that foreigners were still able to ransack the city because the walls were broken down and the gates had been burned.
3. Nehemiah requested and received permission to take a group of workers to Jerusalem to make the proper repairs. The Persian king (Artaxerxes) consented (Neh. 1–2).

Voices from the Past

4. Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem and began the repair work (Neh. 3).
5. Nehemiah and his company met strong opposition to this work (Neh. 4).
6. Nehemiah had the courage and determination to do the job (Neh. 5).
7. The enemies used deceitful tactics, but Nehemiah knew their intent, and the job was completed in fifty-two days (Neh. 6).
8. Nehemiah then wanted proof as to the identity of true Jews (Neh. 7).
9. Ezra preached to the Jews, challenging them to obey God (Neh. 8).
10. Many made public confession of their sins (Neh. 9).
11. They promised not to forsake God's house (Neh. 10:39).
12. Those who offered themselves to God were blessed (Neh. 11:2).
13. Levites were sought to guide the people in God's ways (Neh. 12:27).
14. After all the effort to rebuild the temple, restore the law, and repair the walls, many Jews who loved the world soon lost one of the identifying marks of God's people, their language. Yes, many spoke in the language of Ashdod (Neh. 13:24).

INTERESTING FACTS

1. After seventy years of Babylonian captivity, the Jews were allowed to return home. Babylon fell on October 10, 539 BC.
2. Zerubbabel led the first group back in 538 BC.
3. Ezra led the second group back in 457 BC.
4. Nehemiah led the third group back in 444 BC.

CHALLENGING LESSONS

1. We should be saddened over congregations who are leaving or have left the faith.
2. We should have a desire and love to do something about it.
3. Sometimes what God wants is not what our government allows.
4. The church will always have its enemies, but God will prevail.
5. Materialism will cause great harm to the work of the church.
6. Beware of false teachers.

Begetting Ashdodites

7. The church must demand proof for those who claim to be Christians.
8. Doing things God's way brings respect for the church.
9. Plain biblical preaching is sorely needed in the church for which our Master shed His blood.
10. For the church to grow, repentance and forgiveness are needed.
11. We must always remember that the church is that precious blood-bought house of God.
12. If the church is to grow, each Christian must offer himself to the work.
13. Christians must live better than the world about them.
14. Problems come into the church when Christians do not separate themselves from the world. Let us keep the world's junk out of the church.
15. Christians must learn and speak Bible language and not the language of Ashdod.

FIVE EXAMPLES OF USING THE LANGUAGE OF ASHDOD

1. Matt. 19:1–9. Calling the sin of adultery a fling, an affair, or a relationship. This is “weasel word”—Ashdod language. Adultery is an immoral act—a sin!
2. Rom. 1:26–32. Calling the sin of homosexuality an alternate life style, live-in partners, or even gay. This is “weasel word”—Ashdod language. God says effeminate, dog, immoral, and Sodomite. Homosexuality is an immoral act—a sin!
3. Gal. 5:19–21; Hab. 2:15. Calling the sin of being a drunk a diseased person or born with a gene he cannot control is “weasel word”—Ashdod language. Getting drunk is an immoral act—a sin!
4. Ezra 9:8; Ps. 85:6. Instead of weasel words—Ashdod language such as fireside chats and rap sessions—let's return to old fashioned revivals with preachers preaching the pure old vanilla gospel that challenges sin and the sinner. This would do the church everywhere a world of good (Jer. 6:16).
5. James 5:20; John 15:22; Rom. 6:23. Calling a sinner a morally disadvantaged person or a person with an uncontrollable gene in his brain is “weasel word”—Ashdod language. To do so is to blame God for sin. Refusing to name the sin and sinner is a sin itself and is an all-out attack on the blood-stained cross. Many have now renamed sin.

Voices from the Past

ONE GREAT LESSON IN SUMMARY

When the church ceases to speak Bible terminology,
it loses its mission, identity, and purpose.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. (T / F) Nehemiah led the first group back from Babylon.
2. Homosexuality is an _____ act and a _____.
3. When we cease speaking _____ language, we lose our _____.
4. Christians must _____ better than the _____ about them.
5. The church will always have its _____, but God will _____.
6. What Persian king consented to let Nehemiah go back to Jerusalem?

7. What three things does the church lose when it ceases to speak Bible terminology? _____, _____, and _____.
8. Plain _____ is sorely needed in the _____ for which our Master shed His _____.
9. We should be saddened over _____ who are _____ the faith.
10. (Y / N) The Bible calls the sin of adultery an affair or a fling.

Torment and Comfort

The Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 16:19–31

SCRIPTURES TO READ

Luke 16:19–31; Rom. 15:4

DEFINITION

The word *preacher* means “a herald, one who proclaims, one who declares the gospel.”

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The rich man wanted to teach his family, but it was too late.

SENTENCE SERMON

The rich man learned the hard way that people and souls are more important than things.

BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION

1. This is a real story, not a parable. It is different from parables; it has real characters. It gives us a glimpse of “the other side.”
2. In this life, he was a very wealthy man and had whatever he desired.
3. He was clothed in purple (a sign of royalty), fine linen (very expensive), and fared sumptuously (he lacked nothing). He was honored by others. He was a Jew; he called on “father Abraham” (Luke 16:24, 30).
4. He used his riches selfishly and unwisely. He trusted in riches.

Voices from the Past

5. There is no indication that he gained his wealth dishonestly.
6. As all men do, he died and went into eternity. He lifted up his eyes in torment. He died a lost man! He learned too late that there are no changes in spiritual status after death—no second chances.
7. He immediately saw where he was, where he had been, and where he could be!
8. Truly, death is the great leveler. Death humbled this rich and selfish man. He becomes a beggar himself. He begs for water, another chance, and for his brothers to hear God's words. He is told that no help is forthcoming. Hell is a lesson learned too late and there is no polite way to say it.
9. He goes from a selfish man full of himself to a humble and lost man who wants to preach to others. What a penetrating thought: The lost are really lost.
10. He is now concerned for others, especially his own brothers.
11. Torment is so horrible that he does not want his kinfolk to come there.
12. He learns the importance of using this life to glorify God and not to be deceived by materialism.
13. He now realizes torment is a reality and that earthly life is the time to prepare for eternity.

INTERESTING FACTS

1. He died and realized he was unprepared for eternity.
2. He became a praying man, but it was too late.
3. He became concerned about others, but it was too late.
4. He realized that every "little" thing (water) comes from God, but it was too late.
5. He became keenly aware that he needed God in his life, but it was too late.
6. This man was conscious in the next life. He maintained his memory.
7. He could recognize others.
8. He prayed for others.
9. He took no material thing with him.