A Religion That Works For Me

Tony Mauck · 1 Kings 12:26–30

INTRODUCTION

- Jeroboam said in his heart, that's where a lot of men's problems reside.
- So the king consulted, verse 28, and made two golden calves. And he said to the people, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem.

1 King by Divine Appointment, Fear Rather Than Faith

2 Kings 10:29

- So here he is, anointed by Ahijah the prophet. He is king by divine appointment.
- If you listen to all that I command you and walk in my ways and do what is right in my sight … Then I will be with you and build you an enduring house.
- But Jeroboam's foolishness over the golden calves, his fear rather than his faith, nullifies the promise that God made through Ahijah the prophet that he would have an enduring house.
- Jeroboam drove Israel away from following the Lord and made them commit a great sin.

2 A Religion That Worked for Him

- Their goal was not to be idolaters, but simply to introduce a new, more convenient sanctuary.
- There was no immediate retribution. The retribution comes 200 years later.
- Jeroboam designed a religion for himself and Israel that worked for him. And it worked for them.
- I can just go to Dan. How convenient is that?

3 A Real Temptation to Define Religion in Your Own Terms

John 8:31–32; Psalm 2:3

- It is an extreme and real temptation for people even now. And it always has been to define religion in your own terms.
- You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.
- Paul ties spirituality with a proper respect and submission to the commandments of the Lord.
- Other people aren't the standard. Jesus Christ is.

4 God Is Not Pleased with Worship for Worship's Sake

1 Samuel 15; Malachi 1; Amos 5

- It's not that we're saying let's reject God altogether and be atheists.
- God is not pleased with worship merely because we call it worship.
- Samuel says, This is rebellion. It's as the sin of divination.
- I hate, I reject your festivals. They were still worshiping. But God says, I don't want any of it. Your lives are inconsistent with it.

5 Not How Little Can I Do, but How Much

2 Samuel 24:24; Psalm 116:12

- People love it when they hear you can do less. Let's decrease the amount of God's expectation.
- It's not how little can I do to please God. Instead, it is how much? How generous, how lavish can my gift to God be?
- All real worship that's acceptable to God comes from a generous, lavish and thankful heart.
- It's not about how little and how convenient. It's instead about how much he deserves.

6 The Question Is Always, Is It Right?

- It doesn't matter if everybody else likes it and approves of it. The question is always, is it right?
- In every nation, he who fears God and does what is right is accepted of him.
- But that's the wrong question. The question folks need to be asking is does this work for God?

THE CHALLENGE

I recommend to you the humble heart and the discipline that will cause you to dwell among the wise.

MY NOTES