An Altar Named Ed

Tony Mauck · Joshua 22

INTRODUCTION

- It is found some sixty-seven times in the Old Testament. So we're talking about a word that appears somewhat frequently, and it simply means witness.
- The ultimate witness of your integrity and mine is God Himself.
- What was intended as a symbol of unity was misconstrued as a symbol of apostasy.

1 Hearsay Isn't Enough Evidence to Determine Guilt

Joshua 22:16

- It tells us that hearsay isn't enough evidence to determine guilt.
- What is this unfaithful act which you have committed against the God of Israel? Turning away from following the Lord this day, by building yourselves an altar to rebel against the Lord this day.
- This part of it at least testifies to their passion for doing right, their passion for doing what the Lord wants them to do rather than compromise.
- The holiness of the God who exists demands that there be no compromise in the area of truth.

2 The Proper Attitude When Questioned

Joshua 22:24–29

- When folks are guilty, they tend to get defensive.
- That's what we read in verses 24 through 29. That they were approachable.
- They tried to make peace and to explain why it is that they did what they did.

3 Looks Can Be Deceiving

- Just the way something looks on the surface might not be the way it really is.
- I understand the upset about this altar. It looks like the altar of God in Shiloh.
- But that's what it looked like. But that's not why they did it. And so there needed to be further inquiry about why.
- Don't automatically assume the worst about people. As to why they did something or what they are doing when we don't have the facts.

4 The Lord Knows

Joshua 22:22

- The mighty one, God the Lord, he knows. And may Israel itself know, if it was in rebellion, or if in an unfaithful act against the Lord, do not thou save us this day.
- The Lord knows about our behavior, good or bad, we should all remember the Lord knows.

- Really, the real issue is the Lord always knows.

5 The Devil Driving a Wedge Between Brothers

- Who do you think is involved in driving this wedge or attempting to drive this wedge between brothers?
- How many times in local churches do you think the devil has been involved in instigating divisiveness in a local church?
- If the devil can keep us busy fighting with each other, then he's going to keep us from doing the work of trying to save souls while there's time and opportunity.
- There are times where we have to take a stand when there is error and compromise, to be sure.

6 What Is Your Life a Witness To?

Romans 12:18

- As this altar that they built was a testimony to their relationship with their brothers across the Jordan, what is your life and my life a testimony to?
- What kind of witness does our behavior suggest about our loyalties?
- If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.
- Peacefulness requires that two parties strive to get along. So he says, you do your part.

THE CHALLENGE

Have you made the determination to put wickedness out of your life and to serve the Lord with all your heart? Don't you want that to be the witness of your life?

MY NOTES