Going Back to Jerusalem

Kris Emerson · 1 Kings 12:26–33

INTRODUCTION

- One of his greatest feats is when he built the house of the Lord in Jerusalem.
- Just like God said through Moses in Deuteronomy, he said, Your heart's going to be drawn away from the Lord, and Solomon's heart was drawn away from the Lord.
- Jeroboam has done nothing wrong. The division was God's will, not Jeroboam's will.

1 It Is Too Much to Go Up to Jerusalem

1 Kings 12:26–33

- So the king consulted and made two golden calves. And he said to them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem.
- This is not about God. God may be a part of it, but it's not really about God, is it? This is not about holiness.
- I want it to be so easy for you to worship God, you don't break a sweat.
- Or if you want to worship God, we'll try to find you a place to do it. Just don't go back to Jerusalem.

2 Why Did They Buy It?

1 Kings 14:15–16

- How many of the Israelites followed his lead? Every single one of them.
- The people are in trouble too. They didn't come up with the idea, and leaving Jerusalem wasn't their idea, but the idea of staying away and buying this got them in trouble.
- Number one, because they believed in the man.
- I think they succumbed to the temptations of it being easy. And I think they like the idea of new roles.

3 They Needed to Go Back to Jerusalem

Acts 2

- What one thing did they need to do? The very thing he told them not to do. They needed to go back to Jerusalem.
- People are wagering their souls that God will accept these changes under the name of trusting some guy, cultural relevance, or just making it convenient.
- We're talking about going back to the book of Acts, to the spiritual Jerusalem.
- Let's just go back to the beginning of the church, the book of Acts, Jerusalem, where we both agree it was definitely right.

4 If There's No Miracle, It's Not From God

Mark 16:17–20; Acts 1:5–8; Acts 2:43

- If there is no supernatural miracle, you are not a spokesman directly from God. Every revelation demands supernatural behavior.
- They confirmed the word by the signs that follow.
- In the first weeks of the church, only the apostles worked miracles, and only the apostles preached the word of God.
- The only reason supernatural miracles occurred was to confirm the word. And when the word was confirmed, the miracles stopped, and they will stay stopped.

5 Repentance and Baptism Found in the Beginning

Mark 16:16; Acts 2:36–38; 1 Peter 3:21

- The only reason this church believes in repentance and baptism for salvation is because that's what we find when we get back to the beginning.
- That's what the Bible says. That's what we find in the beginning.
- Repent. And each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Peter said, Baptism now saves you. What right do we have to alter in any way and or for any reason what was in the beginning?

6 A Method to Find the One Truth

Acts 15:1–22

- When we go back to Jerusalem, there is a method wherein we can find the one truth on any doctrinal issue.
- They gather every shred of information on the topic they can find that they know has come from God.
- He got everything he could get from Paul. He got everything he could get from Peter. He got everything he could get from the Word of God. He put it all together, and he said, Only one answer agrees.

THE CHALLENGE

Does your belief, your faith, your salvation story, does your life stand up to the journey back to Jerusalem? Have you made that walk? And have you found the truth and brought it with you into and through your life?

MY NOTES