The Church Failed Me

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INTRODUCTION

- Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.
- But we are going to be judged for all of our behavior, all of our deeds.
- By your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned.

1 Influences Do Not Give a Pass on Judgment

1 John 5:19; Job 2:3; 1 Corinthians 6

- There are a variety of influences that affect my behavior. And affect the meditations of my heart and the words of my mouth.
- Where in the Bible does it say, okay, I've come under the influence of the devil, therefore I'm thinking and acting a certain way. I get a free pass on the day of judgment.
- Adam actually tried that one. When he was found in transgression in the Garden of Eden, what did it say? It's the woman that you gave me.
- And yet, despite those awful circumstances, Job holds fast his integrity. Job's troubles did not give him a pass to misbehave.
- And it does hurt. But does that give you a pass in the day of judgment? Because somebody in the church disappointed me?

2 Brethren Fail to Live Up to Their Holy Calling

1 John 1:7; Matthew 7:21; Galatians 6:1

- Brethren stumble. And the stumbling of brethren can affect us negatively in two ways.
- But failing brethren do not deny the legitimacy of the convictions that we hold.
- And no amount of infidelity, immaturity, or outright foolishness changes what is true.
- The church is not perfect. And I doubt if it ever has been.
- Though brethren stumble, we must not wallow in sin.

3 They Fail to Meet My Struggles or Needs

Romans 12:15; Job 2:13

- We should bear one another's burdens. Weep with those who weep. Romans 12, 15.
- People say things that they shouldn't. People do things that they shouldn't, and people don't do things that they should.
- We want a spiritual Superman who's always there to say just the right thing and do just the right thing and supply just the right thing in my struggle.
- Brethren may not supply all the attention and nurturing that you think you need.

- Then they sat down on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights, with no one speaking a word to him.

4 The Black Hole of Self

- What do I get out of this? How does this benefit me? This isn't going to cost me anything, is it?
- If you're going to evaluate the suitability of a local church based first on the criteria of me, then you will likely not be happy anywhere.
- No local congregation is likely to have everything and do everything that I want.
- What if people are looking at you in the same way? About your failure to supply any benefit to them.

5 Place Your Dependence upon the Lord

- The church, with all of the kindness that she can muster and all the love that she can muster, may not fix my problems.
- You need to place your dependence upon the Lord. He is the one who is always available.
- They're not the answer to all of my anxiety. The Lord is the answer to that. And he, not the brethren, will reward our faithfulness.
- But the church is not the end all and the be all. It has limitations, it has struggling people within it, and I'm one of them, and you are.

THE CHALLENGE

Trust in him who is the rock. While there's time and opportunity, because one day we'll stand before him on the day of judgment for the things that we have done.

MY NOTES