The Serpent & The Cross

Tony Mauck · Numbers 21:4–9

INTRODUCTION

- There are some circumstances of Scripture that I read about that I want absolutely nothing to do with whatsoever.
- They become impatient because of the journey, just as Israel did.
- Simply to accept what he tells us, follow his instructions, and reap the glorious benefits of having done so.

1 Effective Because of Its Author, Its Source

Numbers 21:8–9

- This was God's prescribed means of being healed. This was divinely appointed means of healing.
- This was a God prescribed means. There was no plan B.
- And it was no respecter of persons. It didn't matter if you were old or young, you got bit by a snake, you better look at the pole.
- It didn't matter whether you were bit one time or a hundred times.
- You realized you were completely dependent upon God's remedy.

2 God's Remedy for Sin: The Son of Man Lifted Up

John 3:14–16; John 12:32; Acts 4:12

- The serpent on a pole, Jesus on a cross.
- If the Son of Man be lifted up, he will draw all men to himself.
- Unless we believe in him, unless we look to him, we cannot be saved. There's no plan B.
- Everyone who comes to Jesus by faith is healed without fail.
- It was by the grace of God that they received healing. It's by the grace of God that we receive healing.

3 All in the Plan in the Mind of God

- Do you think this was an accident back in Numbers 21?
- Oh, this was all in the plan in the mind of God.
- Just as they have to look to him in faith, we're going to have to look to Jesus in faith, this one who was lifted up to die for us.
- What makes it effective? What God says. What God regards is what makes it effective.

4 They Had Corrupted This Symbol

2 Kings 18:4; 1 Samuel 4

- They had corrupted this symbol, and it had become an idol.
- They failed to realize that the power was the God behind the symbol and not in the symbol itself.
- But when they treated it as just a symbol and didn't realize that it had to do with their relationship with Jehovah. They got into trouble.

5 Take Up Your Cross

Matthew 16:24; Luke 14:26–27

- How does the Lord want us to look to the cross now? He wants us to take up our crosses.
- If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.
- Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.
- But Jesus' cross didn't have a wheel. I think sometimes that's what we want to do with the cross. We want to put a wheel on it.
- We must not corrupt the symbol. It was an instrument of death.
- It is whatever we have to bear, whatever we have to endure, the difficulties, no matter what shape and size they are, we persevere to the end.

THE CHALLENGE

So let us take up our crosses and follow him. It's the means of salvation. Is there someone in this audience who needs to put on Christ and everything that pertains to being a servant of his?

MY NOTES