

“Broken Vows”

Adapted by: Michael R. Hughes

Text: Ecclesiastes 5:4,5

Theme: To remind us of the “vows” we made in becoming Christians.

Introduction:

1. Vow defined - A solemn promise; to asseverate; a promise to fidelity or constancy; as, the marriage vow. A promise to deity.
 - a. Example - Jacob’s vow, Genesis 28:20-22.
 - b. Business vows, employment vows.
2. In many ways man has gone forward, but in some of the most important he has slipped back.
 - a. Time was when man’s oral word was good, but now you had better have them in writing.
 - b. This would not be if man respected God’s laws.
3. It is better to not make a vow than make one and not keep it, Ecclesiastes!5:4-5.
4. We should not make rash vows, only those which are right and honorable. Herod’s vow (head of John).
5. We call attention to two kinds of vows:

Discussion:

- I. Marriage vows-
 - A. Marriage is a serious step. It is God ordained.
 1. Made for the perpetuating of the human race.
 2. Its sacredness cannot be overemphasized.
 - B. Disregard for these vows will bring destruction on any people.

1. Even some Christians hold them lightly.
 2. Lack of teaching from pulpits responsible.
 - a. Preacher must not flinch from this.
 - b. II!Timothy!4:1.
 - C. God instituted marriage, Genesis!2:20-23.
 - D. There was no divorce law in the beginning, Matthew!19:8.
 1. But is there no reason for which I can be joined to another?
 2. Yes, the Bible gives two -
 - a. Death of the companion- II!Corinthians!7:39; Romans!7:3.
 - b. Adultery or fornication - Matthew!19:9.
 3. One cannot live in adultery and be saved.
 - E. Broken vows mean broken homes. Do not treat the marriage vows lightly.
 - F. But there are other vows even more important.
- II. Married to Christ -
- A. Become married to Christ when we obey the gospel.
 1. It is then we become a part of his bride.
 2. We make solemn vows that must not be broken.
 - B. The Bible plainly teaches that we are married to Christ- Romans!7:4; II!Corinthians!11:2.
 - C. In becoming Christians, we make vows as brides and grooms do.
 1. Because we make vows and sometimes break them it brings disgrace.
 2. Peter is a good example of this - Matthew!26:35.
- III. Some of the vows incorporated in the marriage of the sinner to Christ.
- A. I will never forsake the assembly-
 1. Many who are faithful to marriage vows to companions hold vows to Christ lightly.
 - a. They miss the assembly without disturbing the conscience.
 - b. Does the young man say "I might?"
 2. When I begin to miss the assembly I begin to break the marriage vows I made to Christ.
 - a. Give of our prosperity.
 - b. Worship each Lord's day with the saints.

- B. I will not forsake the Lord's table.
 - 1. Faith in Christ does not have to be by word only.
 - 2. We show strong faith when we eat the Lord's Supper.
 - a. This is to observed each Lord's Day.
 - b. Hebrews!10:25.
 - 1) Is there a positive command?
 - 2) There are few positive commands in the New Testament.
 - 3) It is not a system of slavery but of voluntary service from the heart.
 - 4) He who seeks to please God needs no positive command, but only to know what pleases God.
 - 3. If one forsakes the assembly he has broken the marriage vow in this.
- C. I will never backslide –
 - 1. Those who are busy in the Lord's work seldom become backsliders.
 - 2. Not looking back prevents backsliding, (Remember Lot's wife).
 - 3. To break this vow is worse than if we had never made it, II!Peter!2:21.
 - a. God pleads with the backslider to return.
 - b. Hosea!14:1.
 - 4. Have you broken this vow?
- D. I will not love the world – (forsake all others).
 - 1. Must not the world (world of sin) I!John!2:15.
 - 2. Paul catalogs the sins of the world.
 - a. These are at variance with good works.
 - b. God's child is to direct his mind to things above.
 - 1) Galatians!2:20.
 - 2) Colossians!3.

Conclusion:

1. Peter said save yourselves - Acts!2:40.
2. Live true to your vows.

Invitation:

Bibliography:

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