

# Four Compromises of the Uncommitted Christian

By Doug Hamilton

## What God Required of the People

Exod 5:3 Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please, let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God, lest He fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword."

**“Us”** – The “us” was all of the Hebrews, the men, the women and children.

**“Three Days Journey”** – God was telling them they must go three days journey away from Egypt. In other words they had to leave the nation to which they were enslaved.

**“Sacrifice”** – They were to offer a sacrifice to Jehovah and only Jehovah, something they had not done for centuries.

**“Lest He Fall Upon Us”** – This is imperative to God, meaning the Israelites do not have a choice in the matter. I just a short time, they will taste of the first three plagues, making it obvious to them that they must leave.

God was calling for all the enslaved children of Israel to leave Egypt and sacrifice to Him in the wilderness or the consequences would be dire. He was clear and specific about this, not wanting any of them to perish in Egypt. They were the people of His own possession and needed to start acting like it. They had over four-hundred years of experience worshipping and serving other gods and this would have to come to an end.

God has also called the Christians to leave our relationship with the world. *1 Pet 2:9 “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for {God's} own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...”* He has called for us to leave our Egypt and press toward the Promised Land. We are also to have no other gods before us because we have a new Master.

## The aim of this lesson is three-fold:

- 1) To look at the four compromises that Pharaoh offered the people of Israel
- 2) To compare the four compromises to four Christian struggles of today.
- 3) To find better strategies to put away those four compromises and draw ever so-close to that Promised Land.

## A) Uncommitted Surroundings

Exod 8:25-27 And Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God within the land." 26 But Moses said, "It is not right to do so, for we shall sacrifice to the LORD our God what is an abomination to the Egyptians. If we sacrifice what is an abomination to the Egyptians before their eyes, will they not then stone us? 27 "We must go a three days' journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the LORD our God as He commands us."

Pharaoh listened to the proposal from Moses that God requested, for the first four plagues had become to wear him down. Pharaoh said it was now okay to sacrifice, but **WITHIN** the land of Egypt.

## Four Compromises of the Uncommitted Christian

By Doug Hamilton

Besides being that it did not line up with the command of God, this would have been an abomination to the Egyptians because they worshipped many of the animals that the Israelites would end up sacrificing. It was a hostile environment that would not have boded well for the children of Israel. The likelihood that they would have been stoned by the Egyptians would have been great, for this was their turf and not the Israelites. Pharaoh was asking them to make the COMPROMISE OF UNCOMMITTED SURROUNDINGS.

The Scriptures reminds us numerous times that we have to be careful of the environment we choose to surround ourselves with. Some of the dangers are listed below:

### Develop poor behavior.

- 1 Cor 15:33 Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals. (ASV)

### Bad Advice

- Prov 13:20 He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

### Unnecessary Persecution

- Matt 7:6 "Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

If we are not careful, we could end up being influenced by a sin-practicing, creation-denying, self-centered, hateful, violent, hostile, pro-drunk, pro-abortion, pro-gay, pro-pornographic, anti-Christian environment that will rob us of the joy, peace and happiness that God wants in our Christian life.

- Ps 1:1-3 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. 3 And he will be like a tree {firmly} planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.

Change your surroundings that allow you to sacrifice to God in an unhindered way:

- 1) Find a time and place that you can have unhindered prayer with everyday.
- 2) Surround yourself with people of God that you can sharpen against.
- 3) Turn the media off and turn the scriptures on. Rid yourself of the Hollywood actors, the politicians and talking heads of the media and replace them with the likes of Abraham, Moses, David, John, Paul and Jesus.
- 4) Surround yourself with Christians and those who are pro-Christian.

### B) Uncommitted Obedience

Exod 8:28 And Pharaoh said, "I will let you go, that you may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only you shall not go very far away. Make supplication for me."

In response to Moses' refusal to stay in the land of Egypt and offer sacrifice to God, Pharaoh offered yet another compromise. He said they could go into the wilderness, but "you shall not go very far away". You have to love Pharaoh's compromised compromise! I like to call this the

## Four Compromises of the Uncommitted Christian

By Doug Hamilton

**COMPROMISE OF UNCOMMITTED OBEDIENCE.** The command was to travel three days into the wilderness, but Pharaoh just wanted them to go a little ways.

We like to do this in our Christian walk at times. If we are not careful, we will tend to revert back to the lowest common denominator in our walk with Christ. The command is to (Matt 22:37) “...love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” It is an all or none when it comes to our relationship with God.

*Rev 3:15-16 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot. 16 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.*

- Being a Christian is not about taking shortcuts, but about going the extra mile.
- It is not about going through the motions, but completing the task that is before us.
- It is not about fighting against 90% of the sin, but against 110% of it.
- It is not about striving for a “C” average in Christian living, but passing it with flying colors through Christ.

God did not save us from our sins to walk any longer therein. He wants us to have a committed obedience to Him, not an uncommitted.

### Some Suggestions:

- 1) Take an inventory of the struggles that you have.
- 2) Ask yourself if you successfully fought against it.
- 3) Ask others that you trust to help pray for you and hold you accountable.
- 4) Try to make an improvement every day.

### C) Uncommitted Families

Exod 10:9-11 And Moses said, "We shall go with our young and our old; with our sons and our daughters, with our flocks and our herds we will go, for we must hold a feast to the LORD." 10 Then he said to them, "Thus may the LORD be with you, if ever I let you and your little ones go! Take heed, for evil is in your mind. 11 "Not so! Go now, the men {among you,} and serve the LORD, for that is what you desire." So they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence.

Pharaoh was now willing to let Moses take the men and go into the wilderness to make sacrifice to God, but leave the children behind. By the way that also meant leaving behind the women for they would be taking care of the children. This is called the **COMPROMISE OF UNCOMMITTED FAMILIES**.

This is one that is quite prevalent the church nationwide and we had better be paying attention. When fail in this area, we are falling for one of Pharaoh's old tricks. When you were baptized into Christ and became a citizen of heaven, with it came the responsibility to not leave your spouses and children back in Egypt. We have an obligation to (Eph 6:4) “...bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

I have visited with numerous parents over the short time that I have been preaching that with they could go back in time and do it over again, but they cannot. A sad issue that has always hurt has been to see a marriage end that is not have to be that way. It is also equally sad to see a

## Four Compromises of the Uncommitted Christian

By Doug Hamilton

spouse die unfaithfully. Because of this, I have always tried to gain the lost spouses and children of the congregation. You have the responsibility to extend the great commission to your family.

### Some suggestions:

- 1) Pray with them; study with them; encourage them.
- 2) Involve them in the youth ministries and fellowship ministries of the church.
- 3) Take them to the camps and retreats.
- 4) Don't let them go down the wrong road without a fight.
- 5) Call others in to help

### D) Uncommitted Resources

Exod 10:24 Then Pharaoh called to Moses, and said, "Go, serve the LORD; only let your flocks and your herds be detained. Even your little ones may go with you."

When Moses refused to cave into Pharaoh's first three compromises, there was one more left to offer. He said that they could go out and sacrifice in the wilderness with the entire group, but that they would have to leave their flocks and herds behind. This is the COMPROMISE OF UNCOMMITTED RESOURCES.

God expects us to redistribute the blessings that He puts before us. He has never been cheap toward us, but we tend to be cheap toward Him if we are not careful. We cannot take this journey of Christianity void of our resources any more than these Israelites could leave their wealth behind with Pharaoh in Egypt. We must not be a people of uncommitted resources.

- Mal 3:8-10 "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed Thee?' In tithes and offerings. 9 "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation {of you} 10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

### Some suggestions:

- 1) Give of the first fruits of your resources instead of the lint in your pocket. 2 Cor 8:5 "...but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God."
- 2) Be a cheerful giver to the work of the kingdom. 2 Cor 9:7 *Let each one {do} just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.*
- 3) Make it your goal to be wise steward. 1 Cor 4:2 *"...it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy."*
- 4) Give with heaven in mind. Matt 6:21 *for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

### Four Compromises of Pharaoh.

- 1) Uncommitted Surroundings
- 2) Uncommitted Obedience
- 3) Uncommitted Families
- 4) Uncommitted Resources