

03 – MISSING GOD’S MESSAGES:

- ✓ We closed last week by looking at an example of someone who overrode a “check” (Keith Green). Sadly, it cost him his life, along with the lives of 2 of his children. Today, I want to look at some of the reasons people are tempted to override a “check”.

Acts 27:9-15 – “By now much time had passed. The weather was becoming dangerous for long voyages because it was late in the year. Paul strongly warned the ship’s officers, saying, ‘Men, I perceive that this voyage will be fraught with danger and involve heavy losses, not only of the ship and the cargo but also of our lives!’ Nevertheless, the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, rather than those things which were spoken by Paul. And because the harbor was not suitable (comfortable) to winter in, the majority wanted to go on and try to get to Phenice. When a gentle breeze began to blow from the south, the men thought their plan was right. They raised the anchor and sailed close to the shore of Crete. But not long after, a violent wind, called the Northeaster, rushed down from Crete ...”

Why People Override a “Check”:

1. Time Pressure

Acts 27:9 – “By now, much time had passed ... it was late in the year”.

- ✓ Time pressure is one of the most common reasons that people override a “check”. “The plane leaves in an hour! We don’t have time to wait around while you pray! We’ve got to get going!” (There’s no telling how many lives have been lost because people were more concerned with ‘being on time’ than they were with what the Holy Ghost was saying to them.)

2. Expert Advice

Acts 27:11 – “Nevertheless the centurion believed the master (steersman)

and owner of the ship, rather than those things that were spoken by Paul.”

- ✓ Part of the blame rests on the shoulders of the centurion. He listened to the “experts”, rather than to what Paul was hearing from the Spirit of God. Seasoned sailors may know something about sailing, but they don’t know more than the Holy Spirit! He can see the future!

3. Discomfort

Acts 27:12a – “And because the haven was not comfortable to winter in.”

- ✓ If we don’t get moving, we’re going to be stuck here all winter! We need to get a move on.” (Comfort isn’t more important than safety.)

4. Peer Pressure

Acts 27:12b – “... the majority wanted to go on.”

- ✓ How many times have we missed God because He was asking us to do something that would be unpopular with our peers? It would have been easy for Paul to think, “Maybe it’s just me! No one *else* thinks we shouldn’t go.” Second guessing yourself and caring what others think can cause you to override the Spirit’s leadings.

5. Favorable Circumstances

Acts 27:13 – “When a gentle breeze began to blow from the South, the men thought their plan was right.”

- ✓ The King James says, “... they supposed they had obtained their purpose.” But they were wrong! That’s why you can’t be led by circumstances! (The words, “But the circumstances all lined up ...” could be written across the face of many a tombstone.) You can’t judge the will of God by circumstances. Ever.

Acts 27:13-14 – “... (they) thought their plan was right. **But not long after**, a violent wind, called the Northeaster, rushed down from Crete.”

- ✓ On the outside, everything was lining up! The wind from the South was *just* what they’d been looking for. (Verse 13 – ERV – “This is the wind we wanted, and now we have it!”) But, as we see in the passage, things can change quickly. Favorable circumstances never give you permission to override a “check”. God knows what’s coming – just around the corner.

Spectacular Leadings:

- ✓ At times, God chooses to lead us in a more spectacular way. But just because something is spectacular – or happens in the physical realm – doesn’t mean it’s God. You STILL need to pray and discern if God is in it.

A. Personal Prophecy

- ✓ Just because someone says, “Thus saith the Lord”, doesn’t mean the Lord actually said it.

Ezekiel 13:1-2 – “Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel, and say to those **who make up prophecies out of their own heads** ... woe to the foolish prophets which **prophesy out of their own mind** ... ”

v. 6 – “**They say**, ‘thus saith the Lord’, **and the lord hath not spoken** ... ”

- ✓ Personal prophecies can be great, but they need to be judged.

B. Dreams

- ✓ God *can* speak through dreams, but most dreams are just dreams. They have no significance whatsoever. Some dreams come because of what’s taking place in your life.

Ecc. 5:3 – CEV – “If you keep **thinking about something**, you will dream about it.”

Isa. 29:8 – “A **hungry** person dreams of eating ... A **thirsty** person dreams of drinking ... ”

- ✓ God speaking through dreams isn’t as common as you might think. There are only 21 instances of God speaking through a dream in the whole Bible. (Ten are found in the Book of Genesis, before a “Bible” existed, and several take place around the time of the birth of Jesus. That doesn’t leave a lot to be found elsewhere.)

Does God Warn Through Dreams?

- ✓ He certainly can! Job 33:16-18 – “**Sometimes** in the night, **he uses dreams to give us warnings**. He holds us back from the pit [of destruction], And our life from violent death.”
- ✓ If you have a dream like that – (you dream your plane crashed) – it *could* be a warning from God. But it could also be fear. Ecc. 5:3 – ICB – “*Bad dreams (nightmares) come from too much worrying.*”
- ✓ What do you do if you have a dream like that? Pray and follow the peace.

C. Angels

- ✓ I’m going to be honest. It’s unlikely that you’ll ever experience an angelic visitation. But, since we’re closer to the end, we can’t rule it out. If an angel ever appears to you, keep in mind that what they say has to be judged by the Word.

Galatians 1:8 – “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached, let him be accursed.” (ie – Joseph Smith)

2 Cor. 11:14 – “Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”