

CROSSING THE LINE

Genesis 6:3; Matthew 12:31-32; Luke 19:42

Introduction: There has always been a time when there was a "deadline", a time that must be met, no matter what the reason for the delay. Airplanes have "point of no return" where they must continue on for there is not enough fuel to turn around and go back. God also has a "deadline," a "point of no return" and that is with His Holy Spirit's dealings with people.

It is after much calling that a person is left in his/her sins and after that person has deliberately turned away from God, ignoring the calling of the Holy Spirit when he/she has "crossed the line" and is left alone.

I. PEOPLE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT CROSSED GOD'S LINE

1. God has always had only one plan for His people and that has been the plan of FAITH.
 - By "faith" Able pleased God
 - By "faith" Abraham believed and followed God.

2. God has never had any other plan except that sinners put their faith and trust in Him.
 - Sacrifices did not save, it was their faith.
 - Baptism did not save, it was one's faith.
 - Church membership does not save, it is by faith in Jesus.
 - Works do not save, it is by faith.

3. Only through Faith does God save.
 - The Holy Spirit called Abel.
 - The Holy Spirit called Cain.
 - The Holy Spirit called Noah.
 - The Holy Spirit called the people of Noah's day.
 - The Holy Spirit called Moses.
 - The Holy Spirit called Pharoah.
 - The Holy Spirit called Paul.
 - The Holy Spirit called Agrippa.
 - Some obeyed and followed the calling of the Holy Spirit and some did not.

4. God called and spoke to the thousands of people in Noah's day. They were wicked, but no more than the people of today. They ignored God and even made fun of Noah and his ark. God told them that His Spirit would not always strive with man and then withdrew His Spirit.
 - Before the flood, God called and called but finally gave them up to their sins.

5. Throughout the Old Testament it is seen where God called and called and then finally gave the people up to their sins.
 - At one point God even confused their language and scattered the people across the face of the earth.

II. PEOPLE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT CROSSED THE LINE

1. During the times of Jesus, God gave people up to their sins.
 - Time and time again Jesus preached to the Pharisees. They heard Him, they saw His miracles, they were convicted of their sins, but they rejected Jesus.
 - Jesus warned them that for the sin of rejecting God there is no forgiveness in this world or in the one to come.
 - Every person who has ever heard the Gospel, every person who has recognized that he/she was lost, every person who has felt the Holy Spirit at his/her heart but keeps on refusing to accept Jesus is in the greatest of danger.
 - If one keeps putting God off, one may cross the line, cross the "point of no return." God will take away His Holy Spirit and there will be no more opportunity for that person to be saved.
2. **Luke 19:41-42** - Jesus wept over the people because they had heard His preaching, heard His teaching, seen His miracles, yet they refused to accept Him. They neglected and refused to be saved and were going on their way, lost and doomed.
 - Satan does not care if one goes to Church or if one is attentive, or if one is even interested, as long as one delays any decision to follow Jesus.
 - In this city where Jesus preached and prayed, where He wept and finally died, many resisted and ignored His saving power and they went on their way, lost, doomed forever.

III. PEOPLE OF TODAY ARE STILL CROSSING THE LINE

1. The same thing happens today.
 - People hear the Gospel, feel the Holy Spirit urging them to accept Jesus, yet they turn away from God and put God off.
 - God is never at fault when a person goes to Hell. ***"...As I live, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but the wicked turn from his way and live." "Turn ye! Turn ye! Why will ye die?"***
 - Do not trifle with the patience of God. God is indeed merciful and does not want any to perish, but His mercy, love and long suffering patience may be put off and ignored too long and He may withdraw His Holy Spirit and then all is lost.
2. A man had heard the gospel many times and felt convicted every time he heard but every time he fought and put off the decision to accept Jesus. Finally when he heard the gospel, there was no pull, no conviction, all quiet. No more wrestling. God had withdrawn His Holy Spirit and the man realized what had happened, he had waited, delayed, put God off, too long. He had crossed the line.

CONCLUSION:

1. Each time one hears the Gospel and puts God off, one gets closer to crossing God's line.
2. One's very soul is at risk, God loves, God is merciful, but God does have a line, a point of no return. Do not say "no" to the Holy Spirit again.