

Compromise in Egypt

This week's news: compromise between Egypt and Israel... The conflict between Israel and Egypt goes back thousands of years... God raised up Moses to go to Pharaoh and say, "Let my people go."... Pharaoh was unwilling, but offered four compromises (Exodus 8-10)...

Go, sacrifice within Egypt...

Go, sacrifice in the wilderness; only you shall not go very far...

Go, but leave your sons and daughters in Egypt...

Go, but leave your flocks and herds...

I would like to speak at greater length about the third compromise... This was perhaps the most subtle and successful of the compromises... One of the biggest problems in the church...

God has been left out of the schools. We are committed as a nation to remain neutral about God... but in fact no one can remain neutral about God... If you teach any subject without reference to God... If God exists at all, he is the most important and everything must be understood in relationship to his nature, will and purpose for mankind.

God has also been left out of our homes. Prayer... Bible reading... Hymn singing... talking openly about

God and his purposes... Even in the homes of the most devoted church members God is often somewhat of an embarrassment... It's little wonder, therefore, that throughout our denomination attendance by young people at church and Sunday school has been declining...

American parents are extremely devoted to their children. They are anxious that their children succeed.. are happy... They are anxious about their health, education, and welfare... physically... socially... emotionally ... But their souls are neglected and starved.

Where are the children?

Where are your children?

...your grown up children?

...your teenage sons and daughters?

... your young boys and girls?

Have you left them in Egypt? Are you content that they should grow up not knowing God? Is it your desire that they do not share the faith of the prophets and the apostles? Do you not want them to follow the pilgrim's journey out of Egypt, out of slavery and bondage to Satan and sin, into the wilderness to worship and serve God... and at

last into the promised land... that heavenly Jerusalem where they will meet the Lord Jesus face to face? Is it your desire that they remain in Egypt throughout all eternity?

Parents are anxious about their children in so many ways... grades (that's good)... popularity (that's not so good, but not entirely bad I suppose)... success in this life (This is great)... But these are not the most important things in life! And when you have done all you can to assure their physical, social, and emotional welfare, success and happiness, you have not fulfilled your most important duty to your children.

Some parents discover that their children don't like to go to S.S. and church. ...true of many normal children. ... not the only thing they object to. If it were, parents might have reason for concern.

Some don't like to go to public school...

Some don't like to wash...

But the knowledge of God is far more important than intellectual knowledge or cultural sophistication. Parents who allow their children to simply follow their own inclinations and desires and let them do whatever they want are giving

their children a false view of life which they will later have to unlearn through painful experience.

If it should be raining on Sunday morning...

6 But if it should be raining on Monday...

The boy or girl quickly learns what their parents feel is most important.

Parents feel public school is very important.

Sunday school is not important

It's terribly important that they go to school...

It's not so important that they should go to S.S.

How many children in Reedsville receive no religious instruction whatsoever?...

I wouldn't be surprised if most who do not receive any instruction belong to the privileged classes... the children of the poorer parents are most likely filling the classes of the C.M.A. and independent churches... the parents of the rich have given their children cars, etc but they have withheld from them the knowledge of God... the children of the poor have far more.

These are children who have been left in Egypt... by their parents. They do not know God. They are not nec-

essarily antagonistic... they may be very religious...
 But they don't know Gbd. They don't know Jesus. Their
 church is not important to them. And even the best of
 them have, essentially, a pagan view of life.

What's the good of your children's accomplishments?
 ... letters in athletics...

... honor society...

... good job and lots of money...

if they don't know God? If they aren't saved? If they
 have not entered into a saving relationship with Jesus
 Christ? If they are biblically illiterate and spiritually
 dead. If they have been left in sin and slavery in Egypt?

Have you agreed to the compromise Pharaoh offered
 to Moses? Moses rejected it and all the other compromises.
 It was a matter of all or nothing. You can't compromise
 with God. In the realm of politics, yes.... but not with
 God... not when your soul is at stake... not when the
 eternal destiny of your son or daughter is involved...

Some children, when they grow up, may reflect with
 bitterness that their mothers and fathers left them in
 Egypt. There are many, many men and women today whose
 parents left them in Egypt as a child and who are now

living in despair... Perhaps their hearts and brains have become pickled... perhaps their slowly attained fortunes and possession have been lost... perhaps their marriages are on the rocks... have lost friends and power and prestige ... they have lost all that their parents gave so anxious to give them... their health and beauty... and they now see that they have nothing... nothing... nothing... and they face the dark abyss without hope and without meaning.

In the mercy of God some of them might encounter God in a real way... they might encounter Jesus Christ... and they may reflect with bitterness that their parents gave them so much while giving them so little...

...They gave them beautiful bodies...

... well trained minds

... taught them the social graces

... put them on the road to success and riches

But no knowledge of God. No concept of a loving God... of a dieing saviour... of the Holy Spirit.

There are men and women all over the world who are discovering what really is important in life... Who God is and what duty God requires of us. That's what the church is for... It's not a museum to keep alive the

past... not to save money, but to save souls. And without the teaching ministry, without the church schools, the church is nothing. It isn't worthy supporting. It's not worth preserving...

Where are your children? Where are the children and young people of Reedsville this morning? Have we left them in Egypt?

AMEN