

Course Title: A KILLER NAMED COMPLACENCY

Goal of This Lesson: Understand the reasons why complacency is a danger to your walk with God.

Note: This lesson contains important principles, especially for those who struggle with their walk in the Kingdom of God. If you truly want to have overcoming victory, you must pray and ask the Lord Jesus to help you put this lesson into action in your life today.

Reading Assignment: Numbers 32:1-5

¹ Now the people of Reuben and the people of Gad had a very great number of livestock. And they saw the land of Jazer and the land of Gilead, and behold, the place was a place for livestock. ² So the people of Gad and the people of Reuben came and said to Moses and to Eleazar the priest and to the chiefs of the congregation, ³ "Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Sebam, Nebo, and Beon, ⁴ the land that the LORD struck down before the congregation of Israel, is a land for livestock, and your servants have livestock." ⁵ And they said, "If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants for a possession. Do not take us across the Jordan."

The Apathy Club

Did you hear about the college students who wanted to form a new organization on their campus? They called it the "Apathy Club"? Their "Apathy Club" wasn't going to be like any other student group. Where most organizations have a purpose or goal -- or some common interest to unify and motivate them -- this club was advertised as "believing in nothing, pursuing nothing." They simply didn't care about anything, and they were going to demonstrate their apathy in an organized fashion!

There was just one problem. The self-appointed officers of the Apathy Club advertised the first meeting -- and not a single person showed up -- because anybody who might have been interested didn't care enough to attend.

It's funny until you realize that there's an apathetic epidemic raging in American Christianity.

The definition of apathy is "a lack of feeling or emotion" -- it's defined as an "absence of concern or interest." This is bad all by itself, but there is something worse.

Apathy has a close cousin called complacency, and complacency brings the added component of self-satisfaction.

Complacency means to be pleased, especially with oneself or one's merits, often without awareness of some potential danger or defect; self-satisfied.

That is what happened to the 2½ tribes we just read about in our text. They were promised by God to enter into Canaan, but they got comfortable with the land they were in and wanted to stay right where they were at.

They came out of Egypt. They had conquered the Moabites and the Midianites and now they were on their way to the Promised Land.

But on their way to the Promised Land they ran into some land that had green grass. So they figured, instead of going into the Promised Land, why don't we go talk to Moses and see if we can just stay right here. This land is suitable for livestock and we have livestock.

The Lord wanted to give them Canaan, but they wanted to settle where they were at. They were no longer in Egypt, but they were not in the Promised Land either.

Spiritual Application

Crossing the Jordan represented more work, more faith, and more commitment.

So they came to Moses and asked its okay just to stay right where there were in the land because it was more convenient, not to take the extended trip just across the river.

It was easier to stay right where they were at, instead of trusting God to take care of them on the other side of the Jordan River. They wanted to become satisfied right where they were at.

Let's make something very clear to everyone:

- God did not bring us out of our old life and old ways to not bring us in to His Promises.
- God has not brought us this far to let us die in the wilderness.
- God brought us out and He is bringing us through where we are at, so that we can go into the Land of Promise as He intended.

Historical Perspective

In the 1940's, the United Kingdom, and the entire region was being bombarded by Nazi Germany, and through the eyes of the world, the war was not going well for the allied forces. Winston Churchill was the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and in a speech declared something that has impacted mankind for over 80 years now. He simply stated "If you're going through hell, keep going."

Sometimes it will seem like you've been going through "hell". It will feel like you're tired of the battle, and just don't want to go any further. It will make you feel disheartened, discouraged, and disillusioned. It will make you feel complacent and apathetic.

As Prime Minister, Churchill declared what would seem like an eternal truth that rings strong to this day. You can't just stay where you at, you must keep on moving forward if you want to win.

The Lord wants people to come the way they are, but He loves them too much to let them stay that way.

- We haven't come through storms to miss the streets of gold
- We haven't made it through valleys to miss my victory
- We haven't made it through messes to miss my miracle

A Personal Declaration

I've made up my mind, I'm going to make it! The goal of satan is to get you and I to become complacent (satisfied) in the way things are right now, and miss out on what God really has in store for us.

Understand today...the battle over your soul has nothing to do with your past. It has everything to do with your future.

The enemy cannot attack your past! When you become Born Again of the Water and Spirit as declared on the day of Pentecost, as preached by the Apostle Peter, all of your past is under the blood of Jesus Christ.

But if satan can get you to be complacent, then he can get the spirit of apathy to slowly become part of your life. If he can get your mind to see instant gratification instead of eternity, the he will ultimately win.

Understand today, that graveyards are full of those whose compassion lost out to complacency. Hell will one day tout the numbers of those whose Apostolic roots gave way to apathetic reasoning.

- Complacency has killed more dreams than the devil ever will
- Complacency has stolen more miracles than doubt ever will
- Complacency has robbed more blessings than fear ever will

A.W. Tozer said, If the world is shattered because of its callousness towards the truth, Christianity is miserable due to its complacency in the truth.

Our greatest adversary, beyond the obvious, is a spirit of complacency that attacks us all. This is something that is not isolated to you.

It's a trial that you must learn how to overcome. The Apostle Peter admonished that we should not think of this as a strange event only attacking you (1Pe 4:12).

Notable Quotations

The tragedy of life is often not in our failure, but rather in our complacency; not in our doing too much, but rather in our doing too little; not in our living above our ability, but rather in our living below our capacities. ~Benjamin E. Mays

If it ain't broke, don't fix it' is the slogan of the complacent, the arrogant or the scared. It's an excuse for inaction, a call to non-arms. ~Colin Powell

Complacency is the deadly enemy of spiritual progress. The contented soul is the stagnant soul. ~Aiden Wilson Tozer

Indicators of Complacency

It is really important to know where you, as an individual, stand. Other people may see it in you, but you are the one that must recognize it for yourself. So the question is "how do I know if I am complacent?"

There are three indicators that will help you to recognize this condition.

- Self-Sufficiency
- Self-Indulgence
- Desensitization

Indicators of Self-Sufficiency

The Lord spoke to the backslidden Israel through His prophet Amos, "Woe to you who are complacent in Zion, and to you who feel secure on Mount Samaria, you notable men of the foremost nation, to whom the people of Israel come!" (Amos 6:1)

The Lord was addressing to the people who were self-satisfied in their comfortable zone, who thought secure in their affluence and who felt safe in their strength.

These people wallowed in their cozy lifestyle with no desire for God, with no hunger for His righteousness and with no reverence to live according to His Word.

They were self-confident and self-sufficient. Thus the Lord warned them about the impending judgment upon them.

Self-Sufficiency is a sign of Spiritual Complacency.

- I can do this
- I've got this
- I don't need God
- I can carry this on my own
- I can bare this burden
- I can figure it out

You cannot do it on your own. God did not design you that way. Pride lies to us when it tells us "you got this".

Reading Assignment: Isaiah 42:5 ESV

[Isa 42:5 ESV] Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it:

- God designed us to need Him
- He designed us to want Him
- He designed us to walk with Him
- To talk with Him
- To love Him

You cannot live a life of blessing without Him. Complacency preaches to us that we can do this on our own. It's a lie from the pit of hell, because you are not alone.

Reading Assignments: Read the following passages

[Psa 23:4 ESV] Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

[Zep 3:17 ESV] The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

[Isa 41:10 ESV] fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Self-sufficiency will not rob me of my dependence upon the Lord.

Indicators of Self-Indulgence

The Lord spoke to His people through His prophet Amos, He was trying to get their attention. What ways has the Lord tried to get your attention?

Reading Assignment: Amos 6:4 NLT

[Amo 6:4 NLT] How terrible for you who sprawl on ivory beds and lounge on your couches, eating the meat of tender lambs from the flock and of choice calves fattened in the stall.

They didn't care about their dire spiritual condition but were focused on enjoying the worldly things.

They expressed their devotion to God in the form of following certain rituals but their hearts were far from a relationship with God. Here's what we can identify:

- They lived for themselves, for their ambitions and for their pleasures
- The Lord cautioned them about the disaster that was about to come upon them
- Complacency thrusts our hearts to run after the pleasures of the world rather than pleasing God
- To pursue the comforts the world offers rather than the comfort of the Holy Spirit
- To seek our security in the things of the world than in the Maker of Heaven and earth

Complacency creates discontentment for spiritual things and makes us content with worldly pleasures.

When the lives of God's people were far from their Creator and from His standards, instead of repenting and seeking the face of the Lord, they indulge in worldly pleasures.

The dangerousness of complacency is when the things of this world become tolerable in our lives. It leads us to pursue the earthly things, leaving us paralyzed in spiritual conditions such as self-indulgence.

- How tragic it is to think that we are rich in the spirit when Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit [realize their spiritual poverty] for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3)?
- How pathetic it is to amuse ourselves by material things when Christ said, "Blessed are those who mourn [weep over their spiritual dryness] for they will be comforted" (Matthew 5:4)?
- How regretting it is to be passionate for worldly prosperity when Christ said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be satisfied" (Matthew 5:6)?

One of the greatest tests of spiritual complacency is found within our prayers.

- Are your prayers about repentance?
- Are your prayers cries for more of God and for His holiness?
- Are your prayers more petitions for earthly blessings?

Complacency is marked by our demands, for out of the abundance of heart, the mouth speaks. When we are taken captive by complacency, we can never say to God what the Psalmist wrote:

[Psa 73:25 ESV] Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

A Prayer Against Complacency

God touch me. Help me get closer to you. I have a long way to go, but with your help Lord, I can do all things through you, who strengthens me!

- What is your prayer today? That is the true test of the heart!

The tribes of Reuben and Gad were satisfied with their surroundings. But their surroundings were green grass and beautiful pastures. Don't let complacency cause you to be satisfied with your surroundings. These surroundings are going to be gone someday.

Moses was trying to tell them about things that were waiting on them in Canaan. Things they couldn't see now but would possess soon, as long as they didn't become complacent in the here and now.

Your attitude should be "my eyes are on Canaan and complacency is not going to steal my Canaan". That is why this last point is so important.

Indicators of Desensitization

The Lord spoke to His people through His prophet Amos and said, "[you] who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!" [Amos 6:6 ESV]

When the kingdom lay in ruin, people were self-sufficient, indulged in earthly pleasures and did not grieve over the disaster that has come upon God's children.

- They became desensitized to the miseries of the people around them.

They lacked compassion for others. All that they were concerned was:

- Personal security
- Personal comfort
- Personal happiness

Thus the Lord pronounced His curse upon them. Complacency makes us desensitized.

- It ruins our compassion for people.
- It hardens our heart from thinking about the welfare of those around us.
- It does not let us grieve over the pathetic condition of others.
- It causes us to stay focused on personal happiness and safety.
- It drives our thoughts, interests and pursuits to revolve around the globe of self.

When we are complacent, we ignore the pain of other people. Our heart is not moved by looking at the troubles and sins of others. We lack generosity, hospitality, care and empathy. We neglect the helpless and hopeless. All of this leads to having no burden for the lost.

Matthew Henry said, "Those are commonly careless of the troubles of others who are set upon their own pleasures; and it is a great offence to God when His church is in affliction and we are not grieved for it, nor lay it to heart."

That is the greatest tragedy of complacency: "Losing the burden for the lost" Complacency robs us our concern for other souls. The devil doesn't mind us coming together to worship....to sing....to preach as long as there is no conversion.

Don't let the devil lie to you and tell you have time. Time is the one thing you don't have. But you have "NOW", so don't let complacency rob you of "now" with "tomorrow".

Reading Assignment: [2Co 6:2 ESV] For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

CONCLUSION

According to the Mayo Clinic Health Systems, High blood pressure is often called the "silent killer" because most people who have it don't have any symptoms. And that silence can be deadly.

Complacency is one of the most dangerous spiritual conditions that we can find ourselves in. It is a slow, ever growing process, that continues to inject its venom to its prey, and many won't realize it until it's too late.

**Assignment
WORKSHEET**

Student Name: _____
Print Full First Name Middle Initial Print Full Last Name

Church Name: _____ **Pastor:** _____

Date: _____

Take your time to review the lesson before you provide your answers.

1. According to the lesson, apathy is a lack of feeling or emotion. It's also defined as what?

2. According to the lesson, what does crossing the Jordan river represent?

3. According to the lesson, what is the goal of satan?

4. According to the lesson, you cannot live a life of blessing without Him. What does complacency preach to us?

5. According to the lesson, the dangerousness of complacency is when the things of this world become tolerable in our lives and leads us to what?

6. According to the lesson, complacency makes us to become desensitized to the miseries of the people around. What are the three things we get concerned about?

7. Please fill in the blanks. Apathy has a close cousin called complacency and it brings the added component of _____ - _____.
8. According to the lesson, God did not bring us out of our old way to not bring us in to His _____. Please select the best answer below:
- | | |
|------------------|------------|
| A. promises | C. praises |
| B. possibilities | D. power |
9. According to the lesson, the battle over your soul has nothing to do with the future. It has everything to do with your past.
- Please select the best answer: ☐ True ☐ False
10. Please fill in the blank. According to the lesson, self-indulgence will allowed Israel to express their devotion to God, but their hearts were far from a personal _____ at _____ns_____p with God.
11. Please fill in the blank. According to the lesson, when the lives of God's people were far from their _____ e _____ o _____ and from His standards. Instead of _____, they indulge in worldly pleasures.
- | |
|---------------|
| A. replacing |
| B. regrouping |
| C. repenting |
| D. retreating |
12. Please fill in the blanks. According to the lesson, one of the greatest t_____s of spiritual complacency is found within our _____.

Congratulations on completing this lesson. While some lessons may seem harder than others, you must always study to show yourself approved unto God, and reveal to others, what God has given you.
