

CHANGING THE SIGNPOSTS

Text: Jeremiah 31:21

INTRO: Signposts and landmarks are aids to help the traveler find his way, but if someone changes the landmarks or the signs along the way, the traveler will be misled.

"Woe to those who call evil good & good evil; who put darkness for light & light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet & sweet for bitter" (Isaiah 5:20).

Woe to those who change the signposts. And to those who are misled by the signposts that have been changed.

I. SOME WOULD HAVE US TO BELIEVE THAT THE CROOKED ROAD LEADS TO PROSPERITY.
READ ISAIAH 59:7-8.

A. Ahab & Jezebel thought so.

1 Kings 21:1-16, 19

B. Gehazi, the servant of Elish thought so. 2 Kings 5:20-27

C. Judas, Matt. 26:14-16; 27:2-5

II. SOME WOULD LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT THE BROAD ROAD LEADS TO HAPPINESS.
Matt. 7:13-14.

A. Solomon tried it all. Wine, women, & song. READ ECCL. 2:1-11

READ PROV 23:27-32

B. Moses made the better choice. Heb. 11:24-26. He understood that sin produces short term pleasure, but never long term happiness.

III. SOME WOULD TRY TO PERSUADE US THAT THE LOW ROAD LEADS TO SELF-FULFILMENT.

- A. Ananias & Sapphira tried it. Acts 5.
- B. Jacob tried it for the first several years of his life.
 - 1. He swindled his brother out of the birth right, then by deceiving their father, also beat him out of the blessing that would have been his.
 - 2. Having fled from the wrath of his brother, he dreamed of a higher road, a ladder into heaven.
 - 3. He went on his way, met Laban, his future father-in-law -- and for the next few years, he learned to take the sort of treatment he had been dishing out.
 - 4. After some years, he returned and made peace with his brother. Then the Angel of the Lord wrestled with him, & his character change was complete. His name was changed from Jacob (deceiver) to Israel, (prince with God).

IV. IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM, THERE IS ONLY ONE ROAD WORTH TRAVELING.

- A. It is the ladder of Jacob's dream. [Jesus] told [Nathaniel], "Most assuredly I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, & the angels of God ascending & descending upon the Son of Man" (John 1:51).
- B. It is the Highway of Holiness foretold by Isaiah the prophet.

A highway shall be there, & a road,
& it shall be called the Highway of
Holiness. The unclean shall not pass
over it, but it shall be for others.
Whoever walks the road, altho a fool
shall not go astray. (Isa 35:8)

(See also Isa. 11:16; 19:23).

C. Jesus clearly identifies that ladder
that spans the gap between Deity &
humanity, that Highway that leads
from earth to heaven. JOHN 14:1-6.

CONCLUSION: Are you walking in the pathway
that God has ordained for us to walk? If you
are not in Jesus, you need to be. You need to
believe His gospel, repent of your sins, and
be baptized into Him, so that your sins may be
forgiven.

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, May 21, 1995
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