

Escape From Babylon

The Series Part 31

Double Minded Dilemma

Flee, Run, Escape, Hide, Evade The Danger. But wait a minute, what about “XYZ”? Do I need to do it right now? Is that what He really means? But, my family thinks I’m nuts. I’m sure it’s not that urgent. I will do it tomorrow. I have plans I need to complete. I’m sure God will understand, He is forgiving. Great is His mercy and grace. I’m just human, what can He really expect from a sinner like me? It just too much pressure. He knows I love Him. All He really wants is for me to trust Him and rest in His love. Why are people making a big deal about all this anyway? I really don’t feel any conviction on it, so God must not be telling me to do it. It’s okay for them, but it’s not really my thing. Why don’t I feel close to God anymore? He doesn’t seem to answer my prayers. It must be the lies telling me to earn my salvation by fleeing and hiding from the evil of this world. I’ll repent of trying to earn God’s love and believing in that stuff at all. “I’m sorry, Lord. I got confused about what You really wanted. I won’t try to work my way to You or prove my love to You. You just want me to rest in You; I know this is what You really want for me. Jesus already did it all. What else can I possible do? I will just go about life and wait for You to return and take me home, right God?God, are you there?”

The Double-Minded Dilemma is the one of Satan’s favorite tricks to get the weary pilgrim off the path of righteousness. The constant presence of inserting doubt, and casting a shadow on everything. This works so well if the heart has not determined to follow God completely. If the heart is ever looking for loopholes to escape the responsibility of action, it will find its way out. We are told to escape Babylon and its evil ways. Yet, many Christians are playing the “Should I Stay Or Should I Go Now?” song and dance. We should take a closer look at what is really being offered and what is really going on with the double-minded dilemma.

Come Out Of Babylon

Revelation 18:4 “And I heard another voice from Heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, that you may not be partakers of her sins, and that you may not receive of her plagues.”

Follow Me

John 10:27 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

➡ How Can Two Travel Together?

Amos 3:3 “Can two walk together unless they are agreed?”

➡ **Who Are We Following? The Lamb**

John 1:29 “The next day John sees Jesus coming to him and says, Behold the **Lamb** of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

How Do They Follow?

➡ **The Lamb’s Example**

John 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

Mark 10:45 “For the Son of Man also came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

➡ **His Sheep**

Luke 9:23 “And He said to all, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”

Matthew 16:24-27 “Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wants to become my follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. (25) For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will find it. (26) For what does it benefit a person if he gains the whole world but forfeits his life? Or what can a person give in exchange for his life? (27) For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.”

1 John 3:16 “By this we know love, because he laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.”

How Do We Overcome The World?

How Do We Know We Have Left Babylon?

Revelation 12:11 “And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb, and because of the word of their testimony. **And they did not love their soul until death.**”

Revelation 14:12 “This requires the steadfast endurance of the saints – those who obey God’s commandments and hold to their faith in Jesus.”

Matthew 10:22 “And you will be hated by everyone because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved!”

How Will They Be Attired?

Revelation 7:14-17 “And I said to him, Sir, you know. And he said to me, These are the ones who came out of the great tribulation and have washed their robes, and have whitened them in the blood of the Lamb. (15) Therefore they are before the throne of God, and they serve Him day and night in His temple. And He sitting on the throne will dwell among them. (16) They will not hunger any more, nor thirst any more, nor will the sun light on them, nor any heat. (17) For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will feed them and will lead them to the fountains of living waters. And God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.”

We are sheep and He is the Lamb. We must be like the Lamb we follow and lay down our lives for His sake, as He did for our sake. We lay down our lives for the body's sake as He has done the same.

So Again: How Can Two Travel Together?

Amos 3:3 "Can two walk together unless they are agreed?"

➡ **Option 1**

Leviticus 26:23-24 "If by these things you won't be reformed to me, but will walk contrary to me; (24) then I will also walk contrary to you; and I will strike you, even I, seven times for your sins."

➡ **Option 2**

1 Peter 2:21-22 "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving you an example, that you should follow his steps, (22) who didn't sin, "neither was deceit found in his mouth."

Revelation 3:4 "You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments. And they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy."

Your Response To God & His Truth

➤ **Remember The Honor Of Being Called.**

John 6:44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who has sent Me draw him, and I will raise him up at the last day."

John 15:16-17 "You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatever you shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it to you. (17) These things I command you, that you love one another."

➤ **Remember It Is God That Reveals The Truth.**

1 Corinthians 2:10-11 "God has revealed these to us by the Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. (11) For who among men knows the things of a man except the man's spirit within him? So too, no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God."

➤ **Remember You Are Listening To Your Father.**

Galatians 4:6-7 "And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. So that you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, also an heir of God through Christ."

The Warning

1 Peter 5:8-9 "Be sober and self-controlled. Be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, walks around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (9) Withstand him steadfast in your faith, knowing that your brothers who are in the world are undergoing the same sufferings."

John 8:44-45 “You are of the Devil as father, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and did not abide in the truth because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own, for he is a liar and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, you do not believe Me.”

“You must be fully convinced without a shadow of doubt that there is an enemy of your soul, who seeks your destructions at every turn.”

Parable Of The Sower.

➤ Be Aware Of What Attack The Devil Is Using On You.

Mark 4:1-9 “And He began again to teach by the seaside. And there was a great crowd gathered to Him, so that He entered into a boat and sat in the sea. And the whole crowd was on the land by the seaside. And He taught them many things by a parable. And He said to them in His teaching: Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, **1)** it happened that indeed some fell by the wayside, and the fowls of the air came and ate it up. **2)** And another fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth. And it sprang up at once, due to not having deepness of earth. And when the sun rose, it was scorched. And because it had no root, it withered away. **3)** And another fell among the thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. **4)** And another fell on good ground and yielded fruit, going up and increasing. And one bore thirty, and one sixty, and one a hundredfold. And He said to them, He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

➤ And He Said To Them....

Mark 4:14-20 “The sower sows the Word. **1)** And these are those by the wayside, where the Word is sown. And when they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the Word that was sown in their hearts. **2)** And these are those likewise being sown on stony places; who, when they hear the Word, immediately receive it with gladness. But they have no root in themselves, but are temporary. Afterward when affliction or persecution arises for the Word's sake, they are immediately offended. **3)** And these are those being sown among thorns; such as hear the Word, and the cares of this world, and the deceit of riches, and the lust about other things entering in, choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful. **4)** And these are those sown on good ground, who hear the Word and welcome it, and bear fruit, one thirty, one sixty, and one a hundredfold.”

Guidelines

➤ Immediate Action Is Required: Don't Fall For Stall Tactics.

Luke 9:59-62 “And He said to another, Follow Me! But he said, Lord, first allow me to go and bury my father. Jesus said to him, Let the dead bury their dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God. And another also said, Lord, I will follow You, but first allow me to take leave of those in my house. And Jesus said to him, No one, having put his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

➤ **Apply What You Have Learned Without Delay.**

James 1:22-25 “But become doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer, he is like a man studying his natural face in a mirror. For he studied himself and went his way, and immediately he forgot what he was like. But whoever looks into the perfect Law of liberty and continues in it, he is not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work. This one shall be blessed in his doing.”

➤ **Learn To Remain Spiritually Minded.**

1 Corinthians 2:13-14 “These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

Thoughts That Betray The Truth

Revelation 3:15-16 “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either cold or hot! (16) So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of my mouth!”

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

Proverbs 16:25 “There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end of it is the ways of death.”

Proverbs 3:5-7 “Trust in The Lord with all your heart, and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear Jehovah and depart from evil.”

Don't Rely On Your “Stinking Thinking”: Trust God

Isaiah 55:8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord, So are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Ephesians 4:17-25 “This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should not walk from now on as other nations walk, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart. For they, being past feeling, have given themselves up to lust, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and were taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus. For you ought to put off the old man (according to your way of living before) who is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind. And you should put on the new man, who according to God was created in righteousness and true holiness. Therefore putting away lying, let each man speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.”

➤ **God Will Set Things Straight.**

Luke 1:48-53 “For He looked on the humiliation of His slave woman. For, behold, from now on all generations shall count me blessed. For the Mighty One has done great things for me; and holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation. He has worked power with His arm, He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their heart. He has put down rulers from their seats and exalted the lowly, He has filled the hungry with good things, and He has sent away the rich empty.”

Double-Minded Is Double The Trouble!

James 4:6-10 “But He gives more grace. Therefore He says, God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble. Therefore submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners; and purify your hearts, **double-minded** ones. Be afflicted, and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to heaviness. Be humbled before the Lord, and He will lift you up.”

James 1:5-8 “But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and with no reproach, and it shall be given to him. But let him ask in faith, doubting nothing. For he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed. For do not let that man think that he shall receive anything from the Lord; he is a **double-minded** man, not dependable in all his ways.”

1 Kings 18:21 “And Elijah came to all the people and said, **How long are you limping over two opinions?** If Jehovah is God, follow Him. But if Baal is God, then follow him. And the people did not answer him a word.”

Lying False Teachers & Lost Family Members!

As we learn the truth, Satan will try to send his workers of evil to snatch away what we have been given by God.

Matthew 16:11-12 “How is it that you do not understand that I did not speak to you about loaves, but to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? Then they understood that He did not say to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

2 Timothy 3:1-7 “Know this also, that in the last days grievous times will be at hand. For men will be self-lovers, money-lovers, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, unyielding, false accusers, without self-control, savage, despisers of good, traitors, reckless, puffed up, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness, but denying the power of it; even turn away from these. For of these are those who creep into houses and lead captive silly women loaded with sins, led away with different kinds of lusts, ever learning and never able to come to the full knowledge of the truth.”

Romans 16:17-20 “And I exhort you, brothers, to watch those making divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which you have learned, and avoid them. For they who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches they deceive the hearts of the simple. For your obedience reached to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf, But I would have you truly wise as to good, and simple toward evil. And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you, Amen.”

2 Peter 2:17-22 “These are wells without water, clouds driven with a tempest, for whom the blackness of darkness is reserved forever. For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they lure through the lusts of the flesh, by unbridled lust, the ones who were escaping from those who live in error; promising them liberty, they themselves are the slaves of corruption. For by whom anyone has been overcome, even to this one he has been enslaved. For if they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the full knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and are again entangled, they have been overcome by these, their last things are worse than the first. For it would have been better for them not to have fully known the way of righteousness, than fully knowing it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But the word of the true proverb has happened to them: The dog turning to his own vomit; and, The washed sow to wallowing in the mire.”

Ephesians 4:13-15 “And this until we all come into the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a full-grown man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; so that we no longer may be infants, tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine, in the dishonesty of men, in cunning craftiness, to the wiles of deceit. But that you, speaking the truth in love, may in all things grow up to Him who is the Head, even Christ;”

A Dangerous Case Study

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding.”

Proverbs 3:5

➤ Part 1: Setting The Scene

Acts 7:38-41 “This is he who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him in Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, who received the living words to give to us, to whom our fathers would not be obedient, but thrust him away and turned back again to Egypt in their hearts, saying to Aaron, "Make us gods to go before us, for as for this Moses who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." And they made a calf in those days and offered sacrifice to the idol and rejoiced in the work of their own hands.”

➤ Part 2: The Outcome

Acts 7:42-43 “Then God turned and gave them over to serve the host of the heavens, as it is written in the book of the Prophets: "O house of Israel, have you offered to Me slain beasts and sacrifices forty years in the wilderness? Yea, you took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, images which you made in order to worship them; and I will remove you beyond Babylon.”

Hebrews 3:7-14 "Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness, when your fathers tempted Me, proved Me, and saw My works forty years. Therefore I was grieved with that generation and said, They always err in their heart, and they have not known My ways. So I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter into My rest." Take heed, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end."

Don't delay and entertain the thoughts of the devil. Don't argue yourself out of the truth given as a gift to you. Obey the clear words of God and follow in His steps.

The Good News

➤ Faith Cleanses Our Hearts

Acts 15:7-9 "And after much disputing, Peter rose up and said to them, Men, brothers, you recognize that from ancient days God chose among us that through my mouth the nations should hear the Word of the gospel, and believe. And God, who knows the hearts, bore them witness, giving them the Holy Spirit even as to us. And He put no difference between us and them, **purifying their hearts by faith.**"

➤ Poured Out Love In The Holy Spirit

Romans 5:1-5 "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we also have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice on the hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we glory in afflictions also, knowing that afflictions work out patience, and patience works out experience, and experience works out hope. And hope does not make us ashamed, **because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us.**"

➤ Sealed By The Spirit

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 "But He confirming us and anointing us with you in Christ is God. And He has sealed us and having given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."

➤ Written Upon Our Hearts

Hebrews 10:15-18 "The Holy Spirit also is a witness to us; for after He had said before, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord; **I will put My Laws into their hearts**, and in their minds I will write them," also He adds, "their sins and their iniquities I will remember no more." Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin."

Closing

■ **Stand Fast And Steady Your Hearts & Minds**

2 Thessalonians 2:15-17 “Therefore, my brothers, **stand fast and hold the teachings which you have been taught, whether by word or by our letter.** Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God, even our Father, who has loved us and has given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.”

Colossians 3:16-17 “Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And everything, whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.”

■ **Be Bold As A Lion**

Proverbs 28:1 “The wicked flee when no one pursues; but the **righteous are as bold as a lion.**”

1 Peter 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and **be ready always to give an answer to everyone who asks you a reason of the hope in you,** with meekness and fear;”
*Sanctify means to make Holy.

■ **Love & Obey**

1 John 3:18-24 “My children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And in this we shall know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him, that if our heart accuses us, God is greater than our heart and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not accuse us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask, we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment, that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave us commandment. And he who keeps His commandment dwells in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit which He gave to us.”

2 Corinthians 6:2 “for he says, ‘At an acceptable time I listened to you, in a day of salvation I helped you.’ Behold, now is the acceptable time. Behold, now is the day of salvation.”

Let us not be moved from the path of salvation. Let us not be moved away from following the Lamb as His sheep. Let us not allow the cares of this world to delay our departure to seek God. The day is late and time is far spent, the night draws near and our Lord is soon to return. History is about to close up like a book and eternity will be soon upon us. I pray we will not lose such a great reward entertaining the double-mind of Satan.

Let Us Escape Babylon Together!