Deliverance Center – Portland, Maine

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Title: The Parable of the Prodigal Nation

Text: Psalm 78:1-72

<<Maschil of Asaph.>> (A Psalm to Give Instruction)

Ps 78:2 🡪Parables are the speeches of wise men, a natural story with a spiritual meaning.

Parable of the Prodigal Nation

Analogies are to be imagined, they are intended by God to be traced between Israel and the lives of believers. Israel was ordained to be a type; the tribes and their marchings are living allegories traced by the hand of the wise providence of God. Paul spake well when he said "which things are an allegory," Ga 4:24 and Asaph called his testimony "a parable."

1Co 10:11; ( ensamples/admonition) Heb 4:11. “labor-example”

Unbelief

Heb 3:12 *Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.* 13 *But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*

Hypocrisy is the high road to apostasy. Those that do not set their hearts aright will not be stedfast with God,

Many parents, by negligence and wickedness, become murderers of their children.

1Pe 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

1Co 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

Ps 78:2 I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:

Truths are sayings of old. "Old Time Religion” The true Gospel, that which men have moved away from.

1. Truths are concealed under metaphors:
   1. I will open in a parable; dark sayings.
      1. Constant warnings of where they are at compared to where they should be. Danger of apostacy.
      2. Describing judgment on the condition they are in spiritually.
2. Truths often repeated.
   1. The more truth is repeated makes it better when tested.
      1. The truth will be better testified.
      2. Or the truth will bring cleansing or reproof.

Ps 78:3 Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.

connection between what we have "heard," and what we have personally "known

Ps 78:4 We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

Timothy is the example (taught from youth)

The duty is urged, for their own profit, Ps 78:7, That they might set their hope in God. To know God's favor will encourage faith; knowledge of his power will help them to believe his promise. Obedience to this precept may tend much to thy own and thy children's profit. By teaching thy children God's actions, thou wilt fix them the faster, and the truth will make the greater impression, upon thy own spirit. A frequent mention of things is the best art of memory: what the mouth preacheth often the mind will ponder much. Besides, it may work for thy children, the more they be acquainted with the goodness, wisdom, power, and faithfulness of God which appear in his works, the more they will fear, love, and trust him.

1. What is to be made known? The praises of the Lord; his strength and his wonderful works.
2. To whom are they to be made known? To the generations to come.
3. By whom? Parents -- one generation to another.
4. How made known?
   1. By hiding nothing that God has done.
   2. By declaring everything God has done.

The child said, Why is it called the passover? The father said, Because the angel passed over us when it slew the Egyptians, and destroyed us not. The child said, Why do we eat unleavened bread? The father answered, Because we were forced to hasten out of Egypt. The child said, Why do we eat bitter herbs? The father answered, To mind us of our afflictions in Egypt.

Psalm 78:5,6—*For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: 6 That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:*

Five generations appear to be mentioned above: 1. Fathers; 2. Their children; 3. The generation to come; 4. The children which should be born; 5. And their children. They were never to lose sight of their history throughout all their generations.

The word testimony is used for the ark, and for the law, written on tables of stone, put within the ark, and covered with the mercy seat. This testified the Lord's gracious presence with his people, and seemed to point out to them both the way of access and acceptance, and the standard or rule of their duty.

1. Maintaining God's truth

For he established a testimony in Jacob. The favored nation existed for the very purpose of maintaining God's truth in the midst of surrounding idolatry. Theirs were the oracles, they were the conservators and guardians of the truth.

Ps 78:6 That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:

1. Maintaining God's pure religion

Ps 71:9 Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth. 18 Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.

Commands, and doctrines of the word of God are not worn out; they are calculated to exert an influence as long as our race shall exist.

1. The fathers' knowledge the children's heritage -- Ps 78:5-6.
2. The fathers' fall the children's preservation -- Ps 78:7-8.
3. The Children’s Knowledge their children’s heritage
4. You can be kept from falling

Jude 1:24 *Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless*…

1Pe 1:3-5 *Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed…*

Ps 78:7 That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:

The use of doctrine exists: in faith that is shown in obedience.

Faith cometh by hearing. Those who know the name of the Lord will set their hope in God this is the purpose of all spiritual teaching.

Those who forget God's works are sure to fail in their own. He who does not keep God's love in memory is not likely to remember his law. The design of teaching is practical; holiness towards God is the end we aim at, and not the filling of the head with speculative notions.

Isa 51:4 ¶ Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people.

Ps 78:8 And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God. 37 For their heart was not right with him, neither were they stedfast in his covenant. 78:9 ¶ **The children** of Ephraim, being armed, and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle. Were they properly trained? Were they spiritually trained?

Ps 78:41 Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.

Turned back

Ps 78:57 But turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers: they were turned aside like a deceitful bow.

Ho 7:16 They return, but not to the most High: they are like a deceitful bow: their princes shall fall by the sword for the rage of their tongue: this shall be their derision in the land of Egypt Ho 11:7 And my people are bent to backsliding from me: though they called them to the most High, none at all would exalt him.

Tempted God

**56** Yet they tempted and provoked the most high God, and kept not his testimonies:

Limited the Holy One of Israel.

Ps 78:38 But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.

39 For **he remembered that they were but flesh; a wind** that passeth away, and cometh not again.

40 How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert!

41 Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.

19 Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness? 20 Behold, he smote the rock, that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed; can he give bread also? can he provide flesh for his people?

22 Because they believed not in God, and trusted not in his salvation:

Ps 78:31 **The wrath of God** came upon them, and slew the fattest of them, and smote down the chosen men of Israel.

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

56 Yet they tempted and provoked the most high God, and kept not his testimonies:

57 But turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers: they were turned aside like a deceitful bow. 58 For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their graven images.59 When God heard this, he was wroth, and greatly abhorred Israel: 60 So that he forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent which he placed among men; (that’s why Christ went to the cross)

61 And delivered his strength into captivity, and his glory into the enemy's hand.

62 He gave his people over also unto the sword; and was wroth with his inheritance.

Ps 78:67 Moreover he refused the tabernacle of Joseph, and chose not the tribe of Ephraim:

68 But chose the tribe of Judah, the mount Zion which he loved.

**Ephraim disqualified themselves by rebellion**

Psalm 78:9,10—*The children of Ephraim, being armed, and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle.* 10 *They kept not the covenant of God, and refused to walk in his law;* 11 *And forgat his works, and his wonders that he had shewed them.*

This is no time for slacking or going back. We must straighten up, tighten up and fight the fight of faith. (Demas fell back having loved this present world.)

We must seek beyond the place of having a ‘church affair’ and have a vibrant relationship with Chirst.

If you love God like you should, the world will hate you. Most will be influenced by the backslidden church and will turn to the world.

They were armed with bows, but deception and lies being full of doubt and unbelief. They are fighting the truth.

Ps 78:70-72—*He chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds: 71 From following the ewes great with young he brought him to feed Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance. 72 So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skilfulness of his hands.*

“He chose David also his servant”

* Called to become a servant
  + Servant by faith
* CHOSEN AS A SERVENT
  + Chosen by faith
  + Chosen-Elect-king
    - Servant king

“He chose David also his servant”

* To feed
  + according to the integrity of his heart
* To guide
  + by the skillfulness of his hands

De 8:3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

The Word of God is the Supreme authority

Ps 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Ps 37:30 The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment.

31 The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.

The last day professing church is wicked

* seeker friendly service
* they do not use the bible as the only authority
* quote psychiatrists (a medical doctor-prescribes meds - usually for depression)
* so-called authorities, because they are psychologists. (Study mind/behavior)

Re 18:23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.

Ps 78:63 The fire consumed their young men; and their maidens were not given to marriage.

The nation that fails its solemn task of instructing the young in the fear of God is fitted for judgment by the consequences of its own choices. The Future generation is endangered without a proper understanding of marriage.

A **Marriage** is an agreement between One Man and one woman in the sight of God, A contract between a Man and a woman and they two become one flesh and produce children in the fear of God.

* Anything else is strange flesh. Two males Two females
* Strange flesh can only pervert children that are obtained by adoption that have escaped abortion. Perverted children don’t understand family values.

A **Family** is one man, one woman, one child. A father, a mother and a child is a family. A husband, a wife and an offspring is the only way for a family.

When a wife has been together with her husband she is said to be in the family way. Expecting, With child, (expectant—carrying unborn offspring inside the body)

Before you start a family, start family values.

A union is for family not for taxes, a family is for love not lust, to preserve truth. Confusions are fitted for destruction and you don’t escape judgment by redefining words, changing the dictionary, changing the laws of Maine, changing the constitution of the United States of America. History will always stand in the mind of the true, History may be forgotten, distorted or denied but you can’t change God’s Word. Before you can start values you need virtue. Family values

1. Righteous Anger —indignation –

**Angry at sin** is a family value

**Rage** is not a family value

**To become angry at a child and not be angry at sin is not a family value.**

* 1. Don’t wait for your child to do wrong to get angry at immorality
     1. Be angry at immorality now
     2. Stay angry at immorality
     3. Don’t stop being angry at immorality

Morals and immorality don’t mix, all morals are inner convictions.

All immorality is behaving without inner conviction.

Unacceptable behavior is anything that is not pleasing to God.

* 1. Don’t wait until you get angry at your child to correct them.
  2. Be angry at sin now, hate sin now.
  3. Be angry at immorality now.

1. Hatred of sin – Righteous Hatred A perfect hatred Ps 139:22;Heb.1:9
2. Discrimination against sin is a family value

**Religious Freedom**

1. Knowing , having, obeying and loving the Truth of God’s Word

* Not choosing whatever you want to believe.
* Love, obey and be like Him. Not just know about Him.

Religion-(Religious Conviction)True Worship

1. Back to God – Through the Principle of Holiness …Holy God-people
2. Preach the Word – by Faith. Through faith for faith …Eternal-(old time)
3. Love with Conviction … All Powerful-speak and preserve the truth /c love