

Foolish Trades, (Part Two)

When Ahab wanted to take Naboth's vineyard, his proposal was a foolish trade. He wanted to take the inheritance of generations and trade it for something new, some plot of land with no definite or distinct heritage. He wanted to trade a vineyard that would supply food and drink and make it into a garden of herbs. Why trade a beautiful, life-giving vineyard for basil and paprika?

Lot traded the secure world of Abraham for something that looked easier, more comfortable, more pleasant, and more popular. In both these cases, the trades were foolish ideas from the beginning. How many stories like this can we find throughout the Scriptures? Rehoboam, who traded the advice of the older men for the acceptance of the younger men, lost the kingdom. Jeroboam who was given a nation, yet out of fear traded the security of a God-given position for the ideas in his own head.

Modern day educators and politicians are trying to trade a new world of socialism for the principles that gave us the greatest nation on earth.

This modern Christianity with the contemporary ideas has no heritage. I can look to Jack Hyles, or go a little further to a Bob Jones, Sr., or I could go back further to the influence of Baptist preachers like Obadiah Holmes or John Clark in the 1600's. These men stood for their faith and suffered rather than giving up to the pressures of acceptable religion. I can cling to that rich, deep heritage or follow Calvary Chapel and go back to the 60's when a hippie that got saved started a movement. I am sure he is a good man, but there is a different heritage.

I could trade a culture and heritage that has produced preachers and missionaries all over the world for a contemporary sound that produces crowds of silent, shallow Christians whose children go to secular colleges or liberal arts Christian colleges. I would be trading young people who would be missionaries for young people who will be radio broadcasters and businessmen. Those are foolish trades. I could trade young people who could be bus workers and Sunday school teachers as they work their secular job for young people who would go to a concert, have a home-Bible study, and accomplish little or nothing for eternity. Yes, a convert will come across their path now and then, but compare that to any young person working a bus route and a Sunday school class with the constant decisions for Christ being made.

Foolish choices -- trading a church where ministry prevails for an entertainment-centered church where my children are not likely to choose to serve God. Simply look at the product of the church you attend and decide if that is what you want for your family. The contemporary crowd might send a few to Pensacola for business or some secular degree, but where are the bus workers, the soul winners, or the preachers? Are any young people coming out of that church you "enjoy" so much? Is a church a place to enjoy or a place where believers are perfected for the work of the ministry? Hmmm, sounds like we might be missing something and perhaps getting a very bad trade.

Foolish choices -- We are free to choose our path, but we cannot choose the destination of the path.

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