

MAKING RIGHTEOUSNESS YOUR OWN

Numbers 25:6-8 NLT

Righteousness has to become your own. We know God calls us to be righteous, our pastors & leaders preach on it, our fellowship has standards to encourage it... but do you own it for yourself?

In the scripture we are going to look at, a man by the name of Phinehas made righteousness his own, and it pleased God and gave Phinehas blessing and favor!

Numbers 25:6-8 NLT Just then one of the Israelite men brought a Midianite woman into his tent, right before the eyes of Moses and all the people, as everyone was weeping at the entrance of the Tabernacle. When Phinehas son of Eleazar and grandson of Aaron the priest saw this, he jumped up and left the assembly. He took a spear and rushed after the man into his tent. Phinehas thrust the spear all the way through the man's body and into the woman's stomach. So the plague against the Israelites was stopped

I MAKING IT YOUR OWN

A- It takes more than knowing about righteousness to be righteous.

1. Proximity isn't enough... knowledge isn't enough... safeguards aren't enough!
 - a. Eli's sons: Hophni and Phinehas had all the ingredients for righteousness but they themselves weren't.
 - b. Samuels sons: Joel and Abiah had all the ingredients for righteousness but weren't.
 - c. Achan had all the ingredients for righteousness but chose for himself.
 - d. Text: The Hebrews had the ingredients for righteousness but followed Baal and got involved in sexual sin & idols
2. Righteousness has to become your own: Who was called righteous in the Bible? And WHY?
 - a. Abraham; believed... Noah; walked in close fellowship with God... Job; covenant...
 - b. Righteousness is something to be settled by you... *I am choosing righteousness for my life*
 - i. From that decision it forms and shapes your life, choices, thinking, actions, behavior-
3. Phinehas was in a lineage of righteousness; Aaron was his grandfather, Eleazar his father, the great-nephew of Moses... but that didn't make him righteous, Phinehas made the choice for himself.
 - a. We don't see when, we don't see how, but we see it in his swift action in our text.

II ACTIONS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

A- Righteousness in you will flow into life-

1. **Numbers 25:7 NLT** He took a spear and rushed after the man into his tent.
 - a. He rushed to an action of righteousness.
2. Righteous men are quick to make decisions of righteousness.
 - a. Many times it is instinctive: It doesn't take a whole lot of pondering or thinking, its an instinctive response.
 - i. I'd say this is the case with our story, God is speaking to Moses, Moses gives direction to gather up those who are leading people astray, and when Zimri brings a prostitute into his tent and everyone knows it, Phinehas responds instinctively-
 - b. Other times it is with wisdom: Immediate Yes or No, and this is why... B/c of Experience or Understanding.
 - c. Some times it is with caution: Judge a situation, and it may not be evil or a sin, but its not healthy, caution says no-

B- What do your actions say? What is the meter of righteousness for you?

1. What are the things God has been dealing with you about? Have you responded to it?
 - a. A righteous man desires the righteousness of God!
 - i. **Matthew 5:6**: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied"
 - ii **Matthew 6:33** We should seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness above all else
 - iii **Romans 8:5** Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh; but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.
2. Your response towards righteousness is an indicator of your heart appetites and convictions

III THE BLESSING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

A- Now, Righteousness has its rewards!

1. Righteousness Heals: **Numbers 25:8** So the plague against the Israelites was stopped...
 - a. Healing happens when a man does right, lives right, pursues what is right!
 - i. **James 5:16** Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
2. Righteousness Protects: It protects the blessing that you have received from God. Protects salvation, marriage, family, finances
 - a. Phinehas made a protective decision. We aren't going to lose what God has given us, or what God has for us.
3. Righteousness Expands: God rewards you with more! **Numbers 25:12-13** Therefore say, 'Behold, I give to him My covenant of peace; ¹³and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel.'"
 - a. His righteous decision brought blessing beyond his own life, it blessed his future and his future descendants-
 - i. Your decisions for righteousness don't just impact you, they are going to impact and influence beyond
 - ii **Psalms 106:30-31** Then Phinehas stood up and intervened, And the plague was stopped. ³¹And that was accounted to him for righteousness To all generations forevermore.
4. God is showing us that righteousness is worth it! Have you made righteousness your own? This is something to ask God for.