

## SPIRITUAL DEFECTS #6 "Hunchbacks"

Lev 21:16-20

Series: Lev 21:16-24 Those not to minister in the temple - physical defects. Physical of the OT is the spiritual of the NT. things that will hinder us from ministering as men of God. Today: Hunchbacks.

### I. BEING BOWED OVER

A. Picture of one who has grown stooped and bowed down over years

1. One who has allowed the afflictions of life to leave a permanent affect *Psalm 44:24-25 Why do You hide Your face, And forget our affliction and our oppression? For our soul is bowed down to the dust; Our body clings to the ground.*

B. 2 main manifestations of a hunched back

1. **Bitterness:** Those who have not processed the negative factors of life properly

a. *Psalm 38:6 I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long.*

1. Long after the event is over: *Why did they/why didn't things turn out differently/why didn't God help...*

b. Produces a twisted/negative way of looking at life, people and God

1. *I talent man: Why try - you're not fair!* 2. *Psalm 116:11 I said in my haste, "All men are liars."*

a. *Can't believe people will change* b/ *Become cynical: Looking for the worst/the scam*

2. **Unbelief:** A hunchbacked person - their eyes are always looking down!

a. A negative focus: *Why God's word can't work/what is standing in the way/all the times it didn't work*

1. *Spies: Walls & giants! (Enemies & obstacles)* 2. *Gideon: Where are all the miracles? (Past history of defeat)*

3. *Matt 14:30 when Peter saw the wind and the waves, he became afraid...* 4. *Philip: What are these among so many?*

b. *Hitler invading France: leaders just gave up; eyes on trenches of WWI; no heart to fight*

C. We are talking about spirit that hinders leadership *V20 hunchbacked person not to minister....*

1. You won't get people to follow you if you exude bitterness & unbelief

a. It is very unattractive; People want help & answers - they already know the negatives of their lives

1. *David over Absalom: "Covered his face" people began to desert; You're going to be in worse shape than rebellion!*

2. *Saul waiting in fear 1 Sam 14: V22 Israelites were hiding in the mountains; Not drawn to Saul*

2. Some men are afraid to voice faith/confidence:

a. Their pride is involved: What if I say God's going to help us...and he doesn't/they don't make it?

1. Their negativity is defensive: I'll say the worst 1<sup>st</sup> - so I won't look bad if it doesn't work out

### II. LIFTING YOUR EYES

A. Faith is a choice of focus: You can choose what you want to look at

1. In all of life you can choose to look up!

a. *Colossians 3:1-2 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.*

1. Not merely temperament: I'm not "faithy"...I choose where I focus/what I focus on

b. *Joshua/Caleb: We are well able* c. *1 Sam 17:37 The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."*

B. For some this involves a deliverance

1. They have allowed a spirit to dominate their minds/hearts

a. *Luke 13:11 there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity 18 years/was bent over and could in no way raise herself up*

1. A settled condition of life 2. Everyone could see it!

2. God is able to deliver us - set us free/untwist us!

a. *Psalm 146:8 The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; The LORD raises those who are bowed down...*

b. *Luke 13:12 But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity."*

### III. INSPIRING CONFIDENCE

A. Having faith inspires confidence in other people

1. Faith (like unbelief) is contagious! Other people around you catch it from you

a. *David/Goliath: The people arose & shouted/pursued...* b. *Jonathan: Others are inspired to fight!*

2. Paul in the storm *Acts 27:20 all hope was lost* - but Paul said "I believe God!"

a. Didn't allow his own fears to dominate and cast him down: Inspired others to believe/do right

3. David: Ziklag destroyed/wives/children/money taken

a. *1 Samuel 30:6 And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.*

1. Would not allow himself to remain distressed: He chose to focus on God

2. Rallied his men: They followed in spite of defeat - they recovered all!

b. *Winston Churchill: Devastating defeats, Battle of Britain, Blitz, was able to maintain confidence in victory; even telling them that there were dark days ahead, but always that they would prevail. He inspired a nation to survive.*