

SPIRITUAL DEFECTS #7 "Dwarves"

Lev 21:16-20

It's a common joke among women that men never really grow up. "How is a man different from a savings bond?" goes the joke, "Men never mature." 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: Dwarves.

I. FAILING TO GROW

A. Our scripture speaks of a condition: Being a dwarf

1. Here: A man – but one who has stopped growing; Failed to fully grow or mature into their potential
 - a. Maturity is not automatic: Adrian Rogers; *You can be born a male, but it takes maturity to be a man.*
2. Jether unwilling to draw his sword: Make the transition from being a boy to manhood – remain a child
 - a. Dear Abbey column: *Dear Abbey, my 37 y.o. husband is extremely intelligent. He has a university degree, and works as an engineer at NASA. However, at home he likes to drink milk from a baby's bottle. Is this a problem?*

B. 3 areas men fail to grow

1. **Feelings:** *V20 But the youth would not draw his sword; for he was afraid...*
 - a. He allowed how he felt to determine how he acted; That's what a child does!
 1. Men who can only function when they feel good – when things are going well/being treated well
 - b. The problem: We often don't feel good/things don't go well/we're not treated well
 1. *1 Sam 30:4 So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep.*
 - c. So they frequently are MIA: Pout/quit/pull back
2. **Responsibilities:** *Law of avenging of blood – family obligation*
 - a. But responsibilities involve things that are no fun/messy: Draw your sword & kill
 1. So men hide/pass responsibilities to others – women!
3. **Focus:** Children are self-centered – they have no concern for others *Fussing at dinner time!*
 - a. For Jether – it was all about him; Family duties/potential/the needs of others don't count
 1. *Men who only think of themselves: Playing/entertainment (Video games!)*
 2. *Church: Talking/joking – oblivious to visitors/NC's/missing/hurting people*

II. THE COST OF FAILING TO GROW

A. The main cost of failing to grow is credibility *V21 Zebah/Zalmunnah mock him! (And Gideon)*

1. People don't take immature men seriously *A dwarf priest...!*
 - a. *Wives/children don't listen – you have no credibility*
 1. *Said it so many times w/out doing it*
 2. *You got discouraged & whined/pulled back/quit*
2. People aren't drawn to – they avoid: They never know which man you will be today
 - a. *Ecclesiastes 10:1 Dead flies can make even perfume stink. In the same way, a little foolishness can spoil wisdom.*

B. The other cost of failing to grow is lack of progress

1. Men who are immature are stuck: so they don't wind up going anywhere in life
 - a. *Job/marriage/ministry: The blessing of God is absent from their lives*
2. Jether's name is excellence: But he failed to live up to his name/his potential
 - a. He is never heard from again: Just like many immature men/immature disciples

III. CHOOSING TO GROW

A. Growing up is a choice (Physical dwarves have no choice)

1. Growing up - spiritually/mentally/emotionally involves deliberate decisions
 - a. *1 Cor 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.*
 - b. *1 Cor 16:13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. (Act like a man!)*

B. Growing up is connected to the command "be strong"

1. Always in the Bible connected with laying hold of God's strength (*Asking God to help us change!*)
 - a. *Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.*
 - b. *1 Sam 30:6 ...but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.*
2. Aggressively turning to God – even though you may not feel like it
 - a. Prayer
 - b. Read Bible
 - c. Praising God

C. Then we need to make the decisions of growth/manhood

1. Taking responsibility
2. Focusing on others
3. Carrying on – regardless of how we feel

D. Ultimately this brings the blessing of God

1. *1 Samuel 30:18 So David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away, and David rescued his two wives.*
 - a. And his men followed him!
 1. God helps cause wife/kids/other people to believe in and follow