

Numbers 25

“Phinehas”

I. Who was Phinehas?

- A. V.7 – Aaron’s grandson; Moses’ nephew (great uncle).
- B. 1 Chron. 9:17-20 – head officer of the gatekeepers of the tabernacle.
- C. Numbers 31:5-6 – a warrior with Moses.

II. What was the setting?

- A. V.1 – **Physical adultery** – *“The people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab.”*
- B. V.2 – **Spiritual adultery**...through a dinner invitation!
- C. V.3-5 – **The consequences**: *“So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the Lord (v.4) was aroused against Israel...Every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal of Peor.”*
 - 1) 3 results of any type of sin/sinful compromise:
 - a) Joining together with sinful forces – John 8:34; Rom. 6:16.
 - b) Opposition with/separation from holy God – Is. 59:1-2.
 - c) Death – Rom. 6:23.
 - 2) Any form of sinful behavior ***always*** leads to further spiritual compromise; exposure to sin never produces Godliness – Ex. 23:32-33; 34:11-16; Hos. 9:10; James 1:12-16; **Ps. 106:35-36** = exposure to sin – mingled with sin, learned the ways of sin & worshiped the object of their sin.

III. What was the response to sin?

- A. **He took offense**...b/c he took God’s word(s) seriously, **unlike everyone else** – Jer. 7:23-26; 9:13-14; 17:23; 19:15; Neh. 9:16-17a;

Ex. 23:13, 31-33; 34:10-16; Deut. 4:9, 23; 6:14; 7:1-6; 11:16;
12:29-32; Josh. 23:7,10-13; Prov. 4:23; Luke 21:34; 1 Tim. 4:16

1) *Phinehas took offense to sin b/c he took God's word seriously, which included having a proper fear of God* – Ex. 20:20; Ps. 36:1; 89:7; Prov. 16:6; Is.8:13; 66:2; Jer. 32:38-40; Heb. 10:31.

2) *Just how seriously do we take God's word?*

3) *Do we take it serious enough that what offends God offends us?*

Does sin offend us?

a) 2 Peter. 2:7-8

b) 1 John 1:6; 3:9 – if we're truly saved we won't continue to sin!
– Matt. 7:21-23; Gal. 5:19-21; James 4:17.

i) ***“If we continue to practice what we know to be offensive to God, we should evaluate our salvation.” – Franklin Graham***

B. **V.7-8 – He took action...** when no one else would: not the congregation or even his own family.

1) Sin runs rampant when:

a) Leadership doesn't respond according to God's standards.

b) The corporate body of Christ doesn't stand united against openly blatant sin = what if even half of the people spoke out against what they had seen?

2) ***Too many Christians agree with God's word but are too timid to act on it.***

a) Genuinely taking God at His word **always** leads to action, regardless of how extreme it may appear, how much criticism it may receive or what anyone else thinks.

b) *And it might get messy (v.8), but what does it accomplish?*

C. He received blessing.

1) V.8, 11 – God’s wrath was stopped.

a) Like his grandfather, Phinehas stood in the gap between the living and the dead; he placed himself between good & evil – Num. 16:41-50.

2) V.12-13 – God’s peace was granted – Ps. 106:30-31; Gen. 15:6; Rom. 4:3.

a) Phinehas stood in the gap between sinful man & holy God when no one else would & his righteous actions spared the people of what they deserved by halting God’s wrath against their sin – Col. 1:13-22; 2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 5:6-11; 1 Pet. 3:18.

b) *These things a result of one man’s zeal for the LORD: “... because he was zealous with My zeal among **them**...”*

i) Them = those who were not zealous.

ii) Zeal = envy or jealousy; fervency for a cause, purpose or person – **Gal. 4:16-18.**