

"The Hard Way or The Easy Way"

Text: Proverbs 13:15 - "...but the way of transgressors is hard."

Matthew 11:28-30 - vs. 30 - "For my yoke is easy,..."

Introduction:

-What we want to this today is the contrast between living for the Lord and living a life of sin.

-Proverbs 13:15, tells us "...the way of transgressors is hard."

-A transgressor is someone who breaks a law.

-In Proverbs 13:5, transgressor means someone who breaks God's law.

-Or simply but a sinner.

-For 1 John 3:4 - "**Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.**"

-Proverbs 13:15 tells , tells us "the way" or "the life" of the sinner is hard.

-Isaiah says about the wicked or the sinner in Isaiah 57:20-21 - "**20 But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. 21 There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.**"

-The life of the sinner is one of constant turmoil, no peace, always troubled.

-Just ask the family of any drunk what there life is like.

-Just ask the family of any dooper what there life is like.

-As the wife of an husband who is unfaithful to her what her life is like.

-My daddy was a drunkard and let me tell my life was hard. Amen.

-The Bible tells us in Ecclesiastes 9:18 - "...one sinner destroyeth much good."

-Now, contrast with the life of a person who trusts in the Lord.

-Isaiah 26:3, tells us that one who trusts in the Lord - "**Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.**"

-We want to look at a couple Bible examples of transgressors and how their lives were hard.

-**LOT**- The nephew of a godly man, man who was called, "the friend of God".

-I am talking about Abraham.

-One day Lot was given a choice where he and his family would live.

-We see the account of this recorded in Genesis 13:10-13.

-Lot choose the wicked city of Sodom to bring up his family.

-From that point on, Lot's life became hard.

-Again, we are reminded that Proverbs 13:15, tells us "...the way of transgressors is hard."

-In the next Chapter of Genesis, Chapter 14, we see there is a battle.

-Notice what happens to Lot and his family in Genesis 14:11-12.

-It took Lot's goodly uncle, Abraham to rescue him. Genesis 14:13-16.

-This is just the beginning of Lot's trouble.
-The Lord tells Abraham that he is going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of their great wickedness.
-Then, in Genesis 19, the Lord sends two angels to warn Lot of the impending destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.
-We find that Lot has really joined up with the inhabitants of Sodom, because in Genesis 19:1, the two angels find Lot sitting in the gate of Sodom.
-Only, rulers, judges, or persons of prominence were allowed to sit in the gate of the city.
-Lot has been living in sin, and he has been a poor testimony to his family and those around him.
-I.E., When he goes to warn his son-in-laws, notice their response in Genesis 19:14 - **"And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law."**

-They mocked him.
-They probably said to Lot, "What's going on? All of sudden you got religion or something." "All this talk about judgment. Beat it man."
-In fact, the day the place was to be destroyed, we see Lot and his family lingering. Genesis 19:15-16. - **"15 ¶ And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. 16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city."**

-They barely escaped.
-But notice Mrs. Lot what she did. Genesis 19:26 - **"But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt."**

-You could take Mrs. Lot out of Sodom but you could not take Sodom out of Mrs. Lot.
-We see Lot ends up drunk in a cave and commits incest with his daughters.
-See Genesis 19:30-38.
-We see as the result of this incestuous encounter that the Moabites and Ammonites future enemies of the nation of Israel have their beginning.
-Lot had a choice.
-Live a life for God or live a life of sin.
-He choose sin.
-Bible says, the way of the transgressors is hard.

-SAMSON

-He was separated for the Lord's service in his mother's womb according to Judges 13.

-He was to be a Nazarite.

-He was not to drink strong drink or wine.

-He was not to touch any unclean thing.

-He was not to cut his hair.

-But one day, Samson leaves home to check out the unsaved women.

Judges 14:1-3 - "1 ¶ And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines. 2 And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife. 3 Then his father and his mother said unto him, Is there never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said unto his father, Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well."

-Samson ends up marrying an unsaved woman.

-The marriage lasts about seven days and then he leaves her.

-After awhile Samson tries to go back and make up with his wife.

-However, his father-in-law had given Samson's wife to one of Samson's companions.

-We see that Samson lives a life of sin.

Judges 16:1 - "Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her."

-Then Samson meets up with Deliah - **Judges 16:4 - "And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah."**

-And as they say the rest is history.

-We find Samson at his lowest as a result of living a life of sin.

-In **Judges 16:21**, we find Samson blinded, banded, and grinding in the prison house.- **"But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house."**

-Finally, Samson kills himself along with the Philistines in **Judges 16:26-30**.

-The Bible says - "the way of transgressors is hard".

Proverbs 14:12 - Tells us - "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

-Samson when he started out in life probably thought his way was the right way but it was not.

-Because "the end thereof are ways of death"

-The Bible tells us "The wages of sin is death".

-The Bible says in **Galatians 6:7-8 - "7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."**

-Both Lot and Samson sowed to the flesh and both reap corruption.
-Again, the scriptures remind us - "the way of transgressors is hard.

-But we want to contrast this with what Jesus said in Matthew 11:30.

"For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

- "yoke", speaks of servitude.

-In other words, what Jesus is saying "serving me, living for me is easy compared to living a life of sin."

-We see according to the word of God that living for God is easy and living a life of sin is hard.

-Paul, the Apostle suffered greatly for God.

-He knew what it was to be a transgressor.

-He knew that his life before he got saved was a hard one.

-In fact, he said in 1 Timothy 1:15 - **"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."**

-Despite all his suffering and persecution, notice the statements of Paul.

-In 2 Corinthians 11, where Paul summaries all his sufferings,

-Now, remember this is a man who was once stoned and left for dead.

-He concludes and says in 2 Corinthians 11:30-31 - **"30 If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities. 31 The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not."**

-The next Chapter 2 Corinthians 12, Paul asks the Lord three times to take away a thorn or infirmity in his flesh.

-The Lord basically answers Paul by saying, "No, you are going to have to depend on my grace to get you through this life."

-Paul says in reply to God's answer in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 - **"9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."**

-Why was Paul, always praising God for his afflictions?

-Because Paul knew something as evidenced by what Paul declared in 2 Corinthians 4:17 - **"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;"**

-You see Paul knew no matter what the devil threw at him, it was still easier living for God than for sin.

-Paul could come to the end of his days and proclaim with assurance in 2 Timothy 4:6-8 - "**6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.**"

-My dear friend, remember never let the devil tell you that it is better living a life of sin, instead of living for the Lord.

-It is bold face lie!!!!

-Remember, what Jesus said about the devil in John 8:44.

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

-The devil is the father of lies.

-Christian, remember what the word of God says -

"the way of transgressors is hard".

-But as Jesus said, "my yoke is easy".

-Which way do you want the "easy way" or the "hard way" for your life.

Conclusion

-Please get Hebrews 11:25 in one hand and Psalm 16:11 in the another hand.

-Hebrews 11:25 - "**Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;**"

-Psalm 16:11 - "**Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.**"

-Which would you rather enjoy?

-The pleasures of "sin for a season", "the hard way".

-OR

-Enjoy the pleasures of the Lord for "evermore", "the easy way".

-The choice is yours to make.