

HOW CAN WE LIMIT GOD?

TEXT: Psalm 78:40-42

Introduction:

- We see in our passage this morning how the children of Israel limited God.
- Vs. 40 - tells us that the children of Israel provoked God in the wilderness. And grieved Him in the desert.
- Vs. 41 - tells us they turned back and tempted God.
- Vs. 42 - tells us they remembered not his hand nor the day he delivered them from the enemy.
- In other words, the children of Israel had short memories and forget all that God had done for them in this past.
- God was ready to dump the honey bucket on the children of Israel and bless them but they limited God in the ways that we just described.
- Although, the passage we just read historically applies to the children of Israel in the Old Testament under the leadership of Moses.
- We still make a spiritual application to Christian in the current age of grace or church age.
- This morning we want to look at how you and I as Christians limit God in His blessing us and using us for His honor and glory.

I. INCONSISTENT CHRISTIAN LIVING LIMITS GOD.

- A. **He is limited in fellowship. - See Isa. 59:1-2**
  - 1. We are made for Him but sin ruins our fellowship.
  - 2. Many Christians have such a back-log of unconfessed sins that they are robbed of the good things of God.

Jeremiah 5:25 - "Your iniquities have turned away these things,  
and your sins have withholden good things from you."
  
- B. **He is limited in available witnesses to use. - See I Cor. 9:27**
  - 1. God can't use a dirty vessel to be a witness for Him.
  - 2. Just like a spot on a neck tie ruins its usefulness so does a spotted saint loss their effectiveness.
  
- C. **If we want to be used of God we must be usable.**

Matt. 5:16 - Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

II. LACK OF FAITH LIMITS GOD.

A. The disciples were hindered because of it.

See MT. 17:14-21

- 1. Without faith we cannot please God.

Hebrews 11:6 - "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

- 2. God's greatest men and women were men and women of faith.

See Hebrews 11:33-39.

- 3. The saved don't tithe because of lack of faith.

-Therefore, lose out on the blessings of God.

-Luke 6:38, tells us God blesses us by the measure we give.

- better to live with 90% blessings - but then live with 100% without the blessing of God

B. John the Baptist was troubled because of it. - See MT 11:1-6

- 1. God wants us to have confidence but a lack of faith breeds doubt. *Lack of faith - Same man who said "Behold the Lamb of God" who takes away the sin of the world*

- 2. It kills the pioneer spirit thus limiting the blessings of God.

- 3. The Bible tells us that the Christian is to "...walk by faith, not by sight:)" 2 Cor. 5:7

i.e. Abraham & Lot - choose the well watered plains of Jordan almost cost him his life  
live in tent and nomadic

**III. SHALLOW AND SELFISH PRAYERS LIMIT GOD.**

**A. God desires to hear and answer prayer but we often refuse to ask and instead go to the world for help.**

1. James 4:2 - "... ye have not, because ye ask not "
2. Phil. 4:6 " every thing "

**B. God refuses to answer prayer because we ask amiss (for the wrong motive).**

1. James 4:3 -
2. When we pray we should pray for God's will to be accomplished.

**See. John 14:13-14 & 1 John 5:14**

- In Jesus's name
- Glorify God
- according to his will

IV. A STUBBORN & REBELLIOUS WILL LIMITS GOD

1. We already saw in opening passage regarding the children of Israel.

2. Christ was rejected by His own people - John 1:11 ~~1:11~~ <sup>23:37</sup>

3. We are given free will. the power of choice

*Joshua*  
Joshua 24:15 & I Kings 18:21

4. God is willing to save all who will believe.

I Tim. 2:4; II Peter 3:9 - *use*

5. Some stubbornly wait for a better time.

*Felix - Roman Governor - Paul preached to Felix about being saved.*  
Festus - Acts 24:25

6. Some are almost persuaded.-

*Agrippa - Acts <sup>26</sup>25:28 - After Paul gave King Agrippa his testimony.*

7. Some surrender their will and trust Christ.

Acts 17:32-34

WAYS WE LIMIT GOD

- 1) INCONSISTENT CHRISTIAN LIVING
- 2) LACK OF FAITH
- 3) SHALLOW & SELFISH PRAYER
- 4) A STUBBORN & REBELLIOUS WILL