

Northside Church of Christ

“God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
John 4:24



Consistently Inconsistent

By Joe Chesser

I have said it many times: “The only thing I am consistent about is being inconsistent!” Being consistent is one of the most difficult things in life. That’s understandable because we are all humans and humans mess up. We make promises we do not keep. We have good intentions that are not fulfilled. We say we’re sorry and will never do it again, but we do. We are hypocritical and don’t always speak the truth or tell how we really feel. We say one thing and do another. We repeatedly miss what we aim at. We are up one day and down the next. That’s why I say we are consistently inconsistent ... but probably not all the time.

One thing that makes Jesus so amazing is that he was never inconsistent. Never! He was constant. He never made a promise he failed to keep. He never pretended to be something he wasn’t. He always spoke the truth. He always lived the truth he spoke. Jesus’ enemies could never find fault with him or trap him in his words. Even at his illegal trial when his false accusers contradicted each other, Jesus consistently spoke only the truth. As one writer said about Jesus, “the messenger and the message were always the same.” The writer of Hebrews put it this way, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13.8). How awesome it is to be able to rely on Jesus’ unchanging ways, to always be with us, to always be our anchor through good times and bad.

Our goal as Christians is to be like Jesus. We are called to leave our human nature behind and work toward the high calling of taking on the nature of Christ. Read Ephesians 4.22-24 and Philippians 3.12-14. Of course that involves many things: unceasing prayer (1 Thessalonians 5.17), consistent hospitality (Hebrews 13.2), assembling for worship (Hebrews 10.25), always giving thanks (Ephesians 5.20), keeping your head in all situations (2 Timothy 4.5) etc. In other words, be as consistent in word and deed as possible. “Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15.58). Continued on next page ...

SUNDAY MORNING

Triple E
Edify, Exhort,
Evangelize
When Shovels Break
8:30 AM

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

9:30 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship Service
10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Bible Study - Acts
7:00 PM



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“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

Northside Church of Christ
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Place Stamp Here

The Abuse of Power

By Mike Riley

Our society has a saying that “power corrupts”. When man is authorized a certain amount of power, the temptation and tendency has always been to abuse that power or authority in favor of selfish gain, i.e., money, influence, prestige, control, etc. In this article, let us look at eight Bible examples of people who became “corrupt” when too much power (authority) was given to them.

The Example Of Saul

Saul’s first abuse of power was when he became impatient at Samuel’s delay to be present at Gilgal to offer the sacrifices before Saul’s army was to go into battle against the Philistines and offered sacrifice himself. Samuel, arriving later, pronounced the first curse on his impetuous zeal (1 Samuel 13:5-14). Saul’s second abuse of power was demonstrated in his war with Amalek (1 Samuel 14:48; 1 Samuel 15:1-9), where he disobeyed the prophetic command of Samuel which called down the second curse and the first distinct intimation of the transference of the kingdom to a rival.

The Example Of Absalom

Absalom is another example of the abuse of power as he led a revolt against his father, David (2 Samuel 15). He tried to supplant his father by courting popularity, standing in the gate, conversing with every suitor, and lamenting the difficulty which he would find in getting a hearing. Absalom raised the revolt at Hebron, the old capital of Judah. The revolt was successful; David fled from his capital over the Jordan. After being anointed king of Jerusalem (2 Samuel 19:10), Absalom crossed the Jordan river to attack his father. A decisive battle was fought in Gilead where Absalom’s forces were totally defeated. As he was escaping, his head was caught in the branches of an oak tree where he was left hanging while the mule on which he was riding ran out from under him (2 Samuel 18:9). While hanging suspended in an oak tree, a man told Joab (commander of David’s army) of the situation. Joab located Absalom and took three darts and thrust them through the heart of Absalom killing him (2 Samuel 18:14-15). The abuse of power can result in terrible consequences.

The Example Of Ahab

Ahab (king of Israel) was the worst king that Israel ever had. He married the wicked Jezebel and because of her influence introduced the worship of Baal into Israel (1 Kings 16:29-31). Through Jezebel’s cunning (having false witnesses testify against Naboth that he blasphemed God and the king), Naboth was murdered and Ahab took possession of his vineyard (1 Kings 21:7-16). Here we clearly see the abuse of power not only applicable to Ahab but to his wife, Jezebel as well.

The Example Of Haman

Haman was the chief minister or vizier of King Ahasuerus (Esther 3:1). His authority (power) corrupted his thinking to the point that he plotted to have the entire Hebrew nation legally killed (Esther 3:9, 13). If it had not been for the courageous Esther, Haman’s plan would have succeeded (Esther 5-7).

The Example Of Herod The Great

Herod is an example of the abuse of power and authority resulting in corruption of his moral character. We see this corruption taking place as he took Jerusalem and completely established his authority throughout his dominions. The terrible acts of bloodshed which Herod perpetrated in his own family were accompanied by others among his subjects equally terrible. He was so paranoid of his regal authority that he did not hesitate to murder numerous members of his own immediate and extended family. His favorite wife, Mariamne, was publicly executed, as was her mother, Alexandra. Earlier Herod had put to death Hircanus, Mariamne’s grandfather (who incidentally, once had saved the king’s life). He also executed several of his sons, e.g., Alexander, Aristobulus, and Antipater (for a general survey of Herod’s activities, see Josephus, Antiquities, Books 14-17). According to a well-known story, he ordered the nobles to be executed immediately after his decease so at least his death might be attended by universal mourning. It was at the time of a fatal illness (brought on by a terrible disease) that Herod ordered the killing of all the babies in Bethlehem two years and under, in an attempt to kill Jesus; he also authorized John the Baptist’s beheading (Matthew 2:16-18; Matthew 14:9-10).

The Example Of Judas

Judas betrayed Jesus into the hands of the Jewish leaders “for thirty pieces of silver” (Matthew 26:14-15). One might ask, “What was Judas’ motive in betraying Jesus?” It could have been his overly active ambition to be the treasurer, not merely of a few poor disciples, but of a great and splendid temporal kingdom of the Messiah. Perhaps his treachery was for the purpose of gaining a position of honor and influence in the Pharisaic party. Whatever his motive was, the abuse of his authority as a business manager (John 12:6; John 13:29) was a key element in his betrayal of Jesus (Matthew 26:14; Matthew 27:3-5; Luke 22:3-4; John 13:2).

The Example Of Pilate

Pilate allowed Jesus to be crucified, though he acknowledged His innocence (John 18:38). We learn from the Roman historian, Josephus, that Pilate’s anxiety to avoid giving offense to Caesar did not save him from political disaster. Pilate’s abuse and misuse of power corrupted his thinking processes to the point of causing him to commit suicide according to the historian Eusebius (cf. Acts 1:18).

The Example Of Simon The Socoer

Simon had heard the Gospel and was obedient to it (Acts 8:13). He was so amazed at the miracles being performed by Philip that he “continued” with him (vs. 13). There was something that Simon could see in the bestowal of the gift of the Holy Spirit (vs. 19). Simon wanted the “power” so zealously that he offered the apostles money (vs. 18). Simon’s whole attitude was that of a professional trickster or deceiver; he fancied that he could (by money) be instructed how to acquire, use and impart, all in the way of trade, these powers. Peter severely warns him of his ungodly attitude and tells him to “Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee” (vs. 22). Simon saw the danger he was in and evidently repented. He went so far as to ask Peter to “pray” for him as well (vs. 24). His thought processes had (at least for a short period of time) been corrupted by his desire for “power” (vs. 19).

Conclusion

In all of the above examples, we can see how easily it is for power to corrupt the thinking processes of an individual if he is not careful. May we all learn from these eight Bible characters not to abuse nor allow power (authority) to corrupt our thinking processes. As frail human beings, we need to realize that the “source” of all power (authority) is from the Lord (Matthew 28:18).

Yes, we’re all consistently inconsistent. But we don’t have to remain this way. We should never resign ourselves to be content with our humanness. Instead, as Christians we can grow and develop into becoming more consistently like Jesus every day. Our goal is to attain “the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4.13). Hopefully for us, the message and messenger will be the same.

Announcements

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Prayer Requests This Week

- Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments

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Communion Preparation

- Sign up sheet for 2021 is in foyer

- August - Montgomery

- September - Thrash

- October -

August Birthdays & Anniversary’s

- Donald Montgomery - 4th
- Jill Carlberg - 14th

- Scott Williams - 28th

- Chuck & Sonja Rowell - 11th

Every Sunday Morning

@ 8:00 AM

on WTOK-TV



Sermon Notes

August 8, 2021

August 15, 2021

August 22, 2021

August 29, 2021

September 5, 2021

September 12, 2021

September 19, 2021

September 26, 2021

October 3, 2021

October 10, 2021

October 17, 2021

October 24, 2021

October 31, 2021

November 7, 2021

November 14, 2021

November 21, 2021

November 28, 2021

December 5, 2021

December 12, 2021

December 19, 2021

December 26, 2021

January 2, 2022

Announcements/Opening Prayer - Don Potts

Scripture Reading - 1 John 3:1 - 3

Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell

Head of Lord’s Table - Shay Cooper

Assist on Lord’s Table - James Johnson

Scripture Reading - John 6:51 - 58

Closing Prayer - Rick Carlberg

Comcast Cable 6

Comcast Cable 431

Comcast Cable 1011

DirecTV 11

DirecTV 396

Dish Network 11

Over-the-air 11.3