

Domination or Dominion

Domination – supremacy or preeminence over another, exercising a ruling power, controlling influence.

Dominion - The right to govern or rule. Power that implies possession of the ability to wield a force, or permissive authority.

This morning I want to talk about the ways of which we fall prey to crossing the lines between the Dominion that God has given us and the domination that our flesh, the world and the devil would want for us to walk in.

First of all, dominion is the “*right*” to govern or rule. This implies an act of submission, that the right is first and foremost understood. Domination on the other hand says that it is a “controlling” influence, implying the forcing of our rule.

Read **Joshua 24:1-27**

Here Joshua stands before ALL the people and brings to them final words before he is to die. He reminds them of the inheritance that has been theirs. He speaks to them of the journey that they have been on, and how time and time again, when they obeyed what the Father had said, they were GIVEN everything they needed.

- Abraham
- Isaac
- Jacob and Esau
- Moses and Aaron
- Deliverance from Egypt
- Death of the Egyptian army
- Death of the Amorites
- Crossing of the Jordon

NOW Joshua says, you have crossed over the Jordon only to find that the land is still invaded with other gods and practices. BUT YOUR GOD< sends the hornet of the Lord ahead, and wipes them ALL out, and you came waltzing in and took over their vineyards, their cities and olive groves which you did nothing to obtain, other to follow the Word of the Lord. Here Joshua says, God has given YOU DOMINION OVER EVERYTHING. Now that you have seen and are living proof of His Dominion and KNOW WHO your God is, will you still choose to serve Him?

The people immediately answer...“Well of COURSE we will Joshua.” But Joshua makes it clear that they have NOT taken seriously what they are saying. He again reminds them that GOD is the one who protected them, God is the one who drove all nations out from before them, God is the one who performed all those great signs and wonders...are you SURE that when you say you will choose to serve Him, you really mean it?

Again the people said, Yes Joshua.... And Joshua reminded the people that IF they choose otherwise, the Lord's hand would have to be removed from over them because He is a jealous God and desires a holy people.

The people NOW understand what Joshua is saying. Their requirements were to understand that GOD had dominion over the land, their families, their protection, and that if they chose to question that or to start to follow OTHER gods, then God's provision could not be sustained. Joshua is basically saying, "WILL YOU MAKE SURE HE IS FIRST IN YOUR LIFE? IS HE GOING TO BE THE ONLY GOD YOU SERVE?"

When the people responded again, Joshua said to them, now that you have given your answer, you are accountable. The people respond with, yes we are accountable.

It was then that Joshua established a covenant, or a binding agreement with God, that from that day on, they would serve him only.

Here we see Dominion at work. They is an understanding of that there is already ONE who carries the whole load, that we must KNOW who we are to be able to receive the full blessing that comes from following the one who leads.

Read **1 Samuel 15:1-31**

Here on the other hand, we see the temptation of another anointed man to step out of the dominion that God had given him, and walk in domination. Samuel anoints Saul as King and gives him the WORDS that the Lord had spoken. IN DETAILS! He tells him specifically to put to death ALL men and women and children, infants, cattle and sheep, donkeys and camels. Saul calls his army together...and look at the size of it! He has 200,000 foot soldiers and 10,000 men from Judah to take on this task. He was a man whom God had already given Dominion to...but look what happens? He first of all kills the people, but spares the King. He and his army then take the BEST of the sheep and cattle, the fattened calves and lambs, everything that was GOOD. But everything that was weak and despised was destroyed.

See where Saul stepped into domination? He KNOWS what God has said. But he decides for whatever reason, "Hey, some of this stuff is really good. God would not want us to kill this, would he? Certainly he knows we will bring back the fattened calves to sacrifice for him. Certainly we will offer these things to him and he will be SO pleased with us."

The Lord saw what happened, and the Word of God says that the Lord says to Samuel, "I am grieved that I ever made Saul King because He turned his back on me and did not follow the instructions that I gave to him."

Samuel goes tracking out to find Saul to confront him about what the Lord had spoken to him, but Saul, was already setting up a monument in his own honor. HE had already convinced HIMSELF that he had done what was right and was even patting himself on the back, when in fact, he did what HE wanted to do, and was manipulating the truth to benefit himself! When Samuel finds him, Saul immediately says to Samuel, "OH HEY SAMUEL, just to let you know, I finished what you told me to do and you know what, it was really a success!"

Samuel quickly responds, "Oh really Saul, then can you tell me why I still hear the bleating of sheep and the lowing of cattle in my ears?" What is that about?

NOW, look what Saul says in verse 15. He says, "THE SOLDIERS" brought them back from the Amalekites. They are the ones who spared the good stuff. Look at what the domination did. He got caught in what he already knew was NOT what God had said, yet he did it anyway, justifying his reasons and his actions, THEN when he was caught, he lied and tried to blame it on his men!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Samuel had enough, and said...STOP IT SAUL. I know the truth because the Lord told me. God chose you because you were not so GREAT in your own eyes and God chose you for this task, but now, he regrets making you King, for you have turned away from what He has commanded YOU"! Saul already deceived into thinking HIS way was the best, says, "Hey there Sam boy, listen. I DID do what God said....I went on that mission, I completely destroyed the Amalekites and all I did was bring the king back, it was the soldiers who spared all the good plunder!"

"Saul, do you NOT KNOW that God does not want your sacrifices? Do you know that walking in rebellion like this is WITCHCRAFT in the sight of God? It is an utter abomination. You totally walked from what God said, to making your own decision which IS rebellion and because you have rejected the Word of the Lord, He takes away your crown and rejects you as King."

Verse 24 is really the place I want you to see the full affects of how domination can cause us to walk AWAY from God. Saul says, "all right, you are correct, I have sinned. I did violate what the Lord said because I was afraid of the people and what they might think of me, but please forgive my sin and come with me now and worship with me."

Do you really think Saul was repentive....is that why he wanted Samuel to come back with him. NO< he wanted Samuel to come back with him so that the people did not KNOW the truth about his own wicked ways. IF Samuel came and worshipped God with him, it would look as if nothing was wrong, but Samuel would not tolerate it at this moment, and as he turned to leave, Saul grabs the hem of Samuel's robe and it tore. Samuel makes it clear that as his robe is torn, so is the Kingdom of Israel torn from Saul's domination. Once again now Saul repents and Samuel goes back with him, because he is no longer did he carry the kingship that God had placed upon him.

Domination will always say this:

1. I deserve this
2. I believe it should be THIS way
3. I am in charge

Dominion says this:

1. I do not deserve this
2. What a privilege we have
3. God is my only hope

Domination says:

1. I know how to handle this
2. We did it like this before, it will work again
3. My experience proves my credibility

Dominion says this:

1. I am not qualified, but I know the ONE who is
2. I do not know which way to go, but I can trust the one who does
3. I cannot depend upon my own experiences, because God has the right to change his plans in my life for my best interest

Domination is weakness trying to manipulate strength, and Dominion is strength by acknowledging weakness, but not as frailty, but your need for God.

Let's look around us right now, many of us are struggling with hurts and wounds and aches that we have never had before. We are barren with desperation because of situations that we neither have answers for nor control over. We have children who have chosen a path of destruction, or marriages that are disintegrating or financial hardships that seem insurmountable...LOOK< now is the time to pick UP YOUR DOMINION. Now is the time to SEE where you are and just as Joshua said to Israel, "choose this day whom you are going to serve?"

"Oh Sure, you say, I DID that, and then when I said YES to trusting Jesus, my life got worse." Did it really, or did you finally take your hands off of it....maybe what happened is you finally realized that you did NOT really have control of things before...or maybe you thought you did, and now you are aggravated and maybe somewhere deep in your thinking, you are sort of questioning that God is really wanting your best interest?

Well...let me ask you this.

1. Have you ASKED HIM to be Lord of your life?
2. Have you surrendered YOUR rights of control and domination in the areas that you still feel are not being answered? Or are you hanging on to those, still trying to manipulate and hang on to something that God wants complete control over?
3. Are you reading His Word and putting it deep within you so that you know what HE has said, so that he will not remove his blessing from over you?
4. Are you willing to repent of believing your ways are better than God's?

Jesus Christ comes to each one of us personally. He offers us HIS VERY SELF, and says, this is the WAY to go, walk in it. He went to the pits of hell for every single one of us to redeem OUR LIVES to eternity and dominion. He bled a horrific death by the hands of those who BELIEVED they were doing the RIGHT THING...and THEY KILLED THE MESSIAH!

Look around you in the world. These are not times of wars and rumors of wars, we have always been in a battle from the day that we allowed Jesus to enter our hearts...but many times we want to put the blame on others, or make it the devil's fault before we really dig deep to see what lies in our hearts and what motives we have. We try to fault others and project our hurts and we try to justify our actions only to find in the end, that our pride will be our downfall.

Christ said this: **John 14:23-24**

IF INDEED we truly LOVE HIM, we WILL keep His commandments. We will love when it hurts, believe when we cannot see what lies ahead, hope when no one else can see a good thing...and then, we will say to the Father as Christ said in John 14: verse 31, "**but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.**"

Counting the cost hurts... it scrapes away the old man, and brings regeneration to our hearts so that the LIGHT of Christ can be seen and evidenced. HIS TRUTH is not ambiguous. It is not something you can pick and choose for your circumstances what you are going to believe for that day, or find a verse in the Bible to PROVE to someone what you are doing is the right thing...THAT IS WITCHCRAFT, just like Saul.

Christ carried it all for our sakes....

Dominion is our inheritance. It is saying that HE already has WON, DECREED and SEALED everything we need. The requirement is to follow. Domination is our enemy. It justifies, reasons and argues that we know a better way, and in so doing; we walk in a total opposite direction of His Word.

The GOOD NEWS is that today, every day; we have a new opportunity to HAND OVER our dominations. The Lord spoke to me while I was studying and said, Dominion is MY Opinion but Domination is an Abomination. Let's agree WITH God...Besides, he already paid the highest price any person could ever pay.