

A man with short, light brown hair and a slight smile is looking off to the right. He is wearing a dark blue blazer over a light-colored shirt with a small, dark pattern. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a park or wooded area. Overlaid on the lower half of the image is the text 'PLACES YOU SHOULD NEVER BE' in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. A thick white vertical line is positioned to the left of the text, starting from the middle of the word 'PLACES' and extending down to the bottom of the frame.

**PLACES
YOU
SHOULD
NEVER BE**

Session 1: The Compromising Place

Judges 1:34; 18:3

Compromise happens when we lose sight of the promise, or no longer value it. The place of compromise is a place of tragedy, lost potential, and the spirit of defeat. Join us in this session as we study the place of compromise and how to avoid it.

1. What are some common circumstances or pitfalls that lead people to the place of compromise?
2. What could bring someone back from the point of compromise?
3. How can we ensure we value the promise will enough to pay the price of the fight?

Compromise is seen as a good concept until you've lost something important, such as your identity and purpose. The tribe of Dan lost their inheritance. Compromise's greatest cost might not affect those who gave up, but the people they left behind. The next generation will bear the burden of the compromises we make. We cannot push the issues off, and we cannot take them lightly. Our hold on the promise will determine the next generation's inheritance.

[illegible]

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Session 2: The Convenient Place

Key Scriptures:

II Kings 2

Opening Remarks:

The convenient place is about options and opportunity. Both of these have played a subtle role in undermining our pursuit of the plan of God. Our inability to safeguard our choices and say no to the wrong opportunities may render us numb to and distant from the right one. Join us in this session as we stumble upon the convenient place.

Watch the Session 2 Video

Discussion Questions:

1. How can we hone our spiritual discernment to differentiate between “better for me” and “best for my calling?”
2. If you had no promise, what would determine your response to an opportunity?
3. How can we train ourselves to prioritize following God’s plan over pursuing opportunity?

Closing Remarks:

Do we answer the call of opportunity instead of the voice of God? God forbid. The convenient place attracts a lot of followers. It's the easy path that turns so many to destruction. Every opportunity must be submitted to the call of God, even if that means losing the opportunity. With or without a promise of something greater, and even if it means we have to forsake everything else, our responsibility is to obey the voice of God.

NOTES:

[illegible]

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Session 3: The Forsaken Place

Key Scriptures:

Nehemiah 13

Opening Remarks:

The forsaken place has history. Where it once was filled with purpose, it now lies void. It represents the loss of sanctification and a replacement with desecration. Join us in this session as we explore the forsaken place.

Watch the Session 3 Video

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the sacred places in your life?
2. Have those places ever been spoiled or desecrated?
3. How can we protect the sacred places in our lives?

Closing Remarks:

We should never fall for the illusion. Forsaking holy places doesn't make it neutral ground; it's an invitation to open ground. The void will be filled, and its very presence will defy the sacred things that once occupied the same space in our lives. In a world that seeks to blur the lines between good and evil, sacred and desecrated, the church shouldn't be asking if the lines can be inched closer to the world, but how much bolder those lines should be etched.

NOTES:

[illegible]

PLACES YOU SHOULD NEVER BE

Session 4: The Prideful Place

Key Scripture:

II Chronicles 32:24-26; Isaiah 39:2

Opening Remarks:

The prideful place brings us face to face with a devious foe: the side of us we never want to know but something that we inevitably must face. Our selfish human nature (our flesh) is lofty, and its perch among the high places betrays its unassuming demeanor. Whether in boasting or self-preservation, our pride will bring us to places of great heights and great falls.

Watch the Session 4 Video

Discussion Questions:

1. Pride can take many forms and subtly slip into our daily lives. How can we stay alert for its presence?
2. If pride is a preoccupation with self, what can we do to counteract its effect?
3. How can we surrender our glory so God gets all glory?

Closing Remarks:

Pride motivates us to try to cover up all our faults and exalt self, directly contradicting the entire plan of God. Pride never wants to talk about its cost. Its self-preservation will lie, scheme, and bluff to delay the inevitable, but it comes all the same. Pride can cost our integrity, our witness, our love, but most devastatingly, it can compete with God's due glory. There is only room for one light. Will it be yours or God's?

NOTES:

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