**COMPROMISE**

**2 Cor. 6:14-18**

**2 Corinthians 6:14** “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”

I pastored an ABC church

Started out good - Declined

Issues on authority of the Bible

Communion (wanted white bread cubes)

Music (didn’t like songs about the blood - wanted CCM)

The ABC as a whole - quite liberal

convention at Green Lake, Wis. - many discussions about Biblical authority

Local Region - “Welcoming and Affirming” (Pro gay)

Only one in region to speak out against it

How does it happen? -

**Small compromises lead to great disasters (or - little sins lead to big sins).**

Book - “Animal Farm”

Happens to denominations,

fellowships,

organizations,

and individual churches

**Can also happen to individuals**

After Solomon died, Israel separated into 2 kingdoms, north & south,

Judah - north, Israel - south

One of Israel’s most wicked kings - Ahab & wife, Jezebel

**1 Kings 16:30** “And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that *were* before him.”

ie. - Naboth’s vineyard (1 Kings 21)

One of Judah’s most Godly kings - Jehoshaphat

**2 Chronicles 17:3-6** “And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim; But sought to the *LORD* God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel. Therefore the LORD stablished the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honour in abundance. And his heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD: moreover he took away the high places and groves out of Judah.”

Brought revival, prosperity, and God’s blessing to Judah

Ahab & Jehoshaphat - Joint POLITICAL venture (2 Chron 18)

Ahab disguised himself & Jehoshaphat went in his royal apparel.

(Would have raised RED FLAGS to me!)

Jehoshaphat almost gets killed, Ahab does get killed

Remember - POLITICAL - SECULAR joint venture - nothing religious.

HOWEVER - Ahab & Jez. had a daughter - Athaliah

& Jehoshaphat and Mrs. Jehoshaphat had a son - Jehoram

Jehoram and Athaliah met, fell in love, & got married

- and it ruined the entire nation of Judah!

**2 Chronicles 21:5, 6** “Jehoram *was* thirty and two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, like as did the house of Ahab: for he had the daughter of Ahab to wife: and he wrought *that which was* evil in the eyes of the LORD.”

1984 - George Hansen (Rep. From Idaho) wrote a book, “To Harass Our People”

About Abuse of power of IRS and government, especially against Christians and churches

Many churches and pastors had him in to speak,

even many “big-name” churches & pastors

HANSEN IS A MORMON!

**Small compromises lead to great disasters**

Jehoshaphat’s “small compromise” led to a GREAT disaster

For himself,

his family,

and his nation

ties in with #7 - Our sinful habits DO hurt those who are following us.

HOWEVER - **Good decisions lead to great blessings.**

In Judges 6 - 8 an interesting story of Gideon, 6th judge of Israel

Felt he was a nobody

**Judges 6:15** “And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family *is* poor in Manasseh, and I *am* the least in my father’s house.”

Yet, “...the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD *is* with thee, thou mighty man of valour.” Judges 6:12

Had to decide whether to follow man or the Lord

God was calling him to lead his people against their oppressors - the Midianites

Put out a call and 32,000 responded - God said “Too many”

Asked all who were afraid to go home - 22,000 left! 10,000 remained

(Been estimated probably close to 100,000 Midianites in their army)

God said “Still too many”

Took them to river and told to drink - lap like dogs, send home - 300 remained!!

Against 100,000??!!

God was going to have the victory!

Each man - Empty pitcher with a light in it and a trumpet - no weapons!

“Surrounded” the Midianites at night, broke pitchers (letting lights shine), blew trumpets and shouted “The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!”

(usually 1 signal lamp and trumpet for every 1,000 men -

Midianites possibly thought surrounded by 300,000)

Were so frightened and confused they ran around and slew each other!

The few (1,000 or so) that survived fled, and Gideon pursued.

(imagine THAT sight! 1,000 Mideanites being chased by 300 unarmed Jews!)

**Gideon made a good decision and received a great blessing!**