

Today's Neglect = Tomorrow's Regret

- No one ever plans neglect.
- We get busy ... then it's too late.
- Fruit we intend to eat goes bad...
- Leftovers become stale...
- Small health problems grow...
- A small project becomes major...
- Children grow up before we thought...

NEGLECT... = DRIFTING

- The Holy Spirit warns against Neglect.
- *Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we **drift away**. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we **neglect** so great a salvation Heb 2:1*
- It takes diligence and focus to remain faithful. If not careful, we can fall into drifting and neglect.

Drift Away...

- More earnest heed to what we hear.
- Lest we drift away
- Every word in the Law proved steadfast
- Every transgression received a just reward
- Every disobedience received a just reward
- How will we escape?

When we Ignore... we drift

- All small problems ignored...become bigger
- *Little leaven leavens the whole lump 1C. 5:5*
- *evil company corrupts good habits 1C.15:33*
- *Talk will spread like gangrene 2Tim. 2:17*
- Often, we know it's dangerous and foolish, but we are busy with other things and let it slide, then slowly over time... it grows bigger

NEGLECT & DRIFTING

- *cares of this world deceitfulness of riches*
- *desires for other things*
- *choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. Lk. 8:14-15*
- Our intent: *“heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.”*
- Never intended or planned for thorns. Day by day they were growing. We saw them and planned to remove them when small. ...Just never did

SELDOM INTENDED/PLANNED

- Just get busy; start drifting begin neglecting
- Day follows day...
- Eating like gangrene...
- Leavening...
- Corrupting ...
- Tiny thorns ... slowly growing ...
- **If we are fortunate we hear a sermon like this ... We're amazed at where we have come!**

A LITTLE FOLLY...

- *Dead flies* putrefy the perfumer's ointment, And cause it to give off a foul odor; So does *a little folly* to one respected for wisdom and honor" Eccl. 10:1
- How did "dead flies" get into this expensive perfumer?
- Through neglect...forgot to cover...

NO GREATER EXAMPLE

- Of one *respected for wisdom and honor* than the man who wrote this very text! **Solomon:**
- *I have given you a **wise and discerning heart**, so that there has been **no one like you before** you, **nor** shall one like you arise **after** you. 13 “**I have also given you** what you have not asked, both **riches and honor**, so that there will not be **any among the kings like you all your days.** 1Kings 3:12-14*

SOLOMON'S *“little folly”*

- He neglected to heed God's simple warning.
*“When you come into the land” and “set a king over you, “**he shall not multiply wives for himself, or else his heart will turn away**”*
Deut. 17:15-17
- We don't know why ... But in all his wisdom he ignored this verse.

THE SAME AUTHOR

- Who counseled others to “*trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding*” Pr. 3:5
- Ignored his own inspired words!
- He did not trust the Lord enough to obey.
- This was Solomon’s “*little folly*” that would do to his wisdom/honor what dead flies do to perfume.

RATIONALIZATIONS?

- Did he think great wisdom would protect him?
- His inspiration by the Holy Spirit
- His great love and devotion to God
- It can't happen to me...
- I can avoid what God warned against, yet...
- *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.*

Gal. 6:7

NEGLECTING & DRIFTING

- *But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites — 2 from the nations of whom the Lord had said to the children of Israel, “You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods.”*
SOLOMON CLUNG TO THESE IN LOVE.
1Kings 11:1-2

NEGLECTING & DRIFTING

- *And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; **and his wives turned away his heart.** 4 For it was so, when Solomon was old, that **his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God,** as was the heart of his father David. 5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. 1Kings 11:3-5*

NEGLECTING & DRIFTING

- *Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not fully follow the Lord, as did his father David. 7 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. 8 And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods. 1 Kings 11:6-8*

“DEAD FLIES”

- These women worked on his heart like “*dead flies*” on “*perfume*.”
- Their “*evil companionship corrupted,*”
- Their “*leaven leavened*”
- Small compromises led to full open rebellion.
- If Solomon’s “*little folly*” led to this, how can we escape? ... “*let him who thinks he stands, take heed lest... he fall.*”

“DEAD FLIES” IN OUR LIFE?

- Small Compromises
- (“*a little folly*”):
- On Job?
- At Home?
- Entertainment?
- Hobbies?
- Doctrine?
- Integrity?
- On Computer?
- Friends?
- Co-workers?
- Language?
- Morality?
- Spirituality?
- Good Works?
- Honesty

HOW GODLY ARE CORRUPTED!

- Small Compromises begin (*a little folly*)
- Do we remember things we would never do
- Yet the wrong place ... the wrong time ...
the evil companion... the thorns choking...
- A moment of neglect “opens the door”
- Now, a lifetime of fighting temptation that
never should have happened!

“DEAD FLIES” IN OUR LIFE?

“When we just can’t find the time (*“little folly”*):

- Add to Our Faith
- Virtue, knowledge,
- Self-control
- Godliness
- Brotherly kindness
- Love
- Attendance
- Think on these...
- Hear these words of Mine & do them
- Pray without ceasing
- Buy up opportunities
- Put off & Put on...
- Treat spouse better
- Worship in spirit/truth
- Conquer besetting sin

NEGLECT & DRIFTING

- Any one of these “*little follies*” can destroy us just as it did Solomon.
- Did any of them prick your conscience?
- Any time we stop “*trusting in the LORD with all our heart*” and begin to “*lean on your own understanding*” we risk this end.
- Never forget these dead flies that can putrefy and cause our own lives to stink.

CONSEQUENCES

- Aaron “*I put it in the fire and out came this calf*”
- When king Saul ‘*forced himself*’ to offer burnt offering cost him his kingdom(1Sam. 13:7-12).
- When David, saw Bathsheba bathing, he had a few moments to consider his actions before lust conceived sin and brought “*the sword*” that “*shall never depart from your house*” (2Sam. 11:1-5;12:10-11).

CONSEQUENCES

- Gehazi's decision to ask Naaman for a talent of silver and clothing led to "*the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and your descendants forever*" 2Kng. 5:20-27
- *Dead flies putrefy the perfumer's ointment, And cause it to give off a foul odor; So does a little folly to one respected for wisdom and honor*" Eccl. 10:1

CONSEQUENCES

- After we get home... need to go over these things in our mind... any “*dead flies*” must be found/removed before they putrefy our life.
- How will we bear the agony of knowing that by our own choices we destroyed our life and the lives of those we love?
- Any “*dead flies*” can destroy the wonderful perfume of an honorable life.

CONSEQUENCES

- Remember David's Anguished Words as he saw the consequences of his own "**dead flies**"
- *'And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would I had died for you, O Absalom, my son, my son!'* 2Sam. 18:33