

WHEN YOU ARE TEMPTED TO COMPROMISE,REMEMBER PROVERBS 3  
WHEN YOU ARE TEMPTED TO COMPROMISE,REMEMBER PROVERBS 3:5-6

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not  
unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways  
acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

It has often been said if a man does not stand for something, he will fall for anything! Some people are like reeds shaken by the wind. They yield to pressure from any direction! Perhaps that explains why corruption can be found in all walks of life. An official whose integrity remains unchallenged is a rare soul. The Bible describes Balaam as a prophet who compromised when a king offered to make him a wealthy man. From then on his increasing love for riches ruined his judgment, and even his donkey was wiser than he. Other important men exhibited similar tendencies and forfeited their claim to greatness.

The Wise Man... Solomon... who Became Sinful (1 Kings 11 :4-5)

Few people inherit fame and fortune, but of those who did Solomon was probably the most famous in the ancient world. He was born a prince and reared in luxury. Yet his excessive wealth seemed insignificant when compared with his wisdom. His phenomenal judgments and success in all matters of jurisprudence became known internationally. It was no great surprise when the Queen of Sheba came to verify the truthfulness of the reports circulating in her country.

She said, "It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard" (1 Kings 10:6-7). It will forever remain a tragedy that the king who reached unprecedented heights of magnificence should be seduced and relegated to a realm of inexcusable shame. It was written of him, "For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites" (1 Kings 11 :4-5). Solomon leaned completely upon his own understanding, and his compromise ruined his integrity.

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The Wealthy Man... The ..... Who Became Sad (Matthew 19:22)

He was the most admired citizen in town. Young, considerate, and exceptionally wealthy, he owned a great estate and was generous to his employees. He was deeply religious and lived according to the highest standards of morality. Guileless, sincere, and yet aristocratic, he was a man of exceptional credibility. "Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" (Matt. 19:16).

The listeners who heard the Savior's reply probably frowned. "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me" (Matt. 19:21). The young man was stunned! Momentarily, he saw strangers living in his beautiful home and heard new voices issuing orders while he, staff in hand, walked along dusty roads wondering how and where his next meal would be coming from. Revulsion shook his body. The Teacher was forcing a choice. What should he do?

"But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions" (Matt 19:22). Poor man! He compromised. Although he desired to walk with Christ, he turned and went the other way. He did not realize Jesus was testing him, even as

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God tested Abraham when He asked that Isaac be sacrificed on Mount Moriah (see Gen. 22). Unfortunately the rich young ruler remained a wealthy pauper. Anything that takes precedence over Christ is too expensive no matter what it's worth!

The Weakening Man ... Demas.... Who Became Side-Trackd  
(2 Timothy 4:10)

Christians would like to know more about Demas who was mentioned three times in the epistles of Paul. Philemon 24 reveals he was a fellow-worker with Paul, Mark, Luke and Aristarchus. The letter to the Colossians informs that he was still with Paul and Luke, but nothing more was said of him There was no commendation either of the man or his work.

The message to Timothy tells how he became a victim of worldly pleasure and deserted his companion. These phases in the life of Demas might be summarized as serving, sighing, and slipping! He became disillusioned as day after day he ministered to a prisoner in chains. Rome had many attractions; the gaiety of the city contrasted strangely with the gloom of the cell. The lust of his eyes and the yearning of his soul increased until finally he abandoned his friend.

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Deep sorrow filled the soul of the apostle when he wrote, "Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world" (2 Tim. 4:10). Demas sought for pleasure, but lost his peace. It would be interesting to know his thoughts when his turn came to meet the Savior.

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