

Cornerstone Message Notes

A Compelling Preview of Christ on the Cross (Numbers 21:4-9)
"The Greatest Stories of the Bible" - part 7 / Pastor Dan Page - 3/18/18

"While it doesn't make sense to think just looking at an image of a snake could save someone from its bite, the point is that it takes an act of faith in God & His plan to find salvation from sin & death."

THEME / (The Sermon In a Sentence or Two)

When God sent poisonous snakes to get His people's attention, His intention was for them to know that all along all He'd wanted them to do was to do what He said.

APPLICATION / (What to Do with What You Hear)

By faith believe & do everything God says whatever it is He says.

FOCUS / (The Core of the Content to Get Us Started)

"Snakes, I hate snakes." It's one of the most famous lines from "Raiders of the Lost Ark." Another of my favorites is, *"it's not the years, it's the mileage."* :-)

This morning's message is one of many odd & even difficult stories in the Bible. It can seem to be fuel for people who want to mock God. Why would He send snakes to bite & kill some of His people? How could He love them & do that?

Well, sometimes love requires a bite that burns when the one that's loved isn't getting it ("most people don't change when they see the light - it's when they feel the heat"). This morning we'll see God's heart is to heal us. In our fallenness sometimes that requires a relentless pain in order for us to experience His relentless love.

The Story of the Snake on a Pole Tells Us that ...

1. SPEAKING against GOD is FOOLISH & DANGEROUS.

Again & always, it never goes well for one who disbelieves & disobeys God.
Numbers 21:4:5

2. LOVE will do WHATEVER it TAKES no matter how INTENSE, PAINFUL, SEEMINGLY CRAZY or INTENSE it MAY BE.

Sometimes God uses drastic measures to get our attention.
Numbers 21:6-7 / Psalm 119:71 / Deuteronomy 8:5 & Hebrews 12:4-11

3. This story POINTS us to CHRIST on the CROSS.

Knowing His death is payment in full for our sin is the basis of saving faith.
Numbers 21:8-9 / John 3:14-15

Making It Real Questions

- 1) Can you see how careful we need to be to guard our heart & watch our tongue?
- 2) Doesn't knowing this make you want to walk more wisely in light of His love?
- 3) Is there something in your life concerning which you need to look to the cross today?

Action Step

Welcome, accept & embrace God's discipline as an expression of His love.