

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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THE BLAME GAME

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Ever since the beginning of man's sojourn on Earth, he has been playing the blame game. That is, he has been attempting to shift the blame for his wrongdoing to another. People of God must not engage in such tactics. Consider some in the Bible who worked in such ways.

1) ADAM BLAMED EVE AND GOD. When asked if he had eaten of the forbidden "tree," Adam responded, *"The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat"* (Gen. 3:11-12). When Adam put the prohibited fruit to his mouth, who put it there? Did Eve? Did God? No, and no! He did.

2) EVE BLAMED SATAN. Once God had finished speaking with Adam, He turned His attention to Eve, to whom it was asked, *"What is this that thou hast done?"* She responded by saying, *"The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat"* (Gen. 3:13). Did the serpent put the banned fruit

in Eve's mouth? No! That was the doing of Eve, by her own admission.

3) AARON BLAMED THE PEOPLE. As Moses was atop the mountain receiving the law, the people below had *"turned aside quickly"* and had *"made them a molten calf"* (Exo. 32:8). When Moses asked his older brother what had occurred, Aaron responded, *"Let not the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that they are set on mischief"* (Exo. 32:22). No doubt, the people bore some responsibility in this sorry situation, but Aaron was heavily involved as well, for it was he who said, *"Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me"* (Exo. 32:2) and it was he who *"fashioned it with a graving tool"* (Exo. 32:4). Did the people shape the calf? Did the people hatch the plan to find the necessary supplies for the calf? No, it was Aaron!

4) SAUL BLAMED THE PEOPLE. The king of Israel was instructed to *"go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and donkey"* (I Sam. 15:3). It is later reported, *"he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive"* (I Sam. 15:8) and *"spared...the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them"* (I Sam. 15:9). When Samuel queried the king as to what was happening, he said, *"They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed"* (I Sam. 15:15). Later he said, *"I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But*

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the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal” (I Sam. 15:20-21).

Who was in charge of carrying out God’s will? The people? No! Saul was the king, and bore all the responsibility.

5) MOSES BLAMED

THE PEOPLE. Most are familiar with the story in Numbers 20:7-12, when God instructed Moses to speak to a rock in order to provide water to the thirsty people. Instead, the Bible records, *“Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also”* (Num. 20:11). God punished Moses and Aaron because they failed to *“sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel”* (Num. 20:12). Later, in discussing this incident with the people, Moses said, *“Furthermore the LORD was angry with me for your sakes, and sware that I should not go over Jordan, and that I should not go in unto that good land, which the LORD thy God*

giveth thee for an inheritance: But I must die in this land, I must not go over Jordan: but ye shall go over, and possess that good land” (Dte. 4:21-22). As sad as it was, who took the rod and utilized the word “we?” Was it the people? No! It was Moses and Aaron who doomed themselves.

The sad fact is, we have all been participants in the blame game. It likely is the most played game in the world. The Bible teaches we must accept responsibility for the errors we make, and until we do we cannot be forgiven of the wrong, nor grow as we should. Notice these verses which teach such to be true.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I Jn. 1:9).

Notice in this passage forgiveness and cleansing occurs after an individual confesses his sin. When he tries to blame others for his sin, it dangerously puts off the needed forgiveness. One must be willing to timely admit his sin.

“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy” (Prov. 28:13). In this verse’s case, covering sin is an attempt to hide it, or shift blame for it. Mercy is available to the individual who acknowledges his sin and abandons it.

“I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin” (Psa. 32:5). Sin must be acknowledged, not hidden, or blamed on someone else. The humble admission of sin brings about forgiveness.

“He looketh upon men, and if any say, I have sinned, and perverted that which was right, and it profited me not; He will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light” (Job 33:27-28). Deliverance from spiritual death comes to the one confesses, “I have sinned.”

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm