

“Making Your Bed & Lying In It”

2 Samuel 4:9-11; Isaiah 28:17-20; Mark 2:9-11



Patriot Day reminds us to never forget Sept. 11, 2001

Garrison Church of God

Sept. 11, 2022

2 Samuel 4:9-11 [ESV]

... 8 and brought the head of Ish-bosheth to David at Hebron. And they said to the king, "Here is the head of Ish-bosheth, the son of Saul, your enemy, who sought your life. The LORD has avenged my lord the king this day on Saul and on his offspring."

9 But David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life out of every adversity, 10 when one told me, 'Behold, Saul is dead,' and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and killed him at Ziklag, which was the reward I gave him for his news. 11 How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous man in his own house on his bed, shall I not now require his blood at your hand and destroy you from the earth?"

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Procrustes, entertains
Theseus.

This story comes from the Greek myth of Theseus a Greek hero who defeated the giant Procrustes. He invited travelers into his fortress and treated them to a lavish meal. Following the meal he forced his guest onto a bed and cut off head or limbs or stretched to fit.

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A late 19th century cartoon in Punch attacking the concept of a universal 8 hour work day as a Procrustean bed.

The Procrustean Bed is a term for a devil's bargain. You get something you want but must accept a great harm in the process.

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A late 19th century cartoon in Punch attacking the concept of a universal 8 hour work day as a Procrustean bed.

This reflects a culture that accepts relativity in its morals in order that it not make anyone feel uncomfortable. Most who have evaluated 9/11 point to this as a cause.

Isaiah 28:17-20 [ESV]

17 And I will make justice the line, and righteousness the plumb line; and hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and waters will overwhelm the shelter."

18 Then your covenant with death will be annulled, and your agreement with Sheol will not stand; when the overwhelming scourge passes through, you will be beaten down by it.

19 As often as it passes through it will take you; for morning by morning it will pass through, by day and by night; and it will be sheer terror to understand the message.

20 For the bed is too short to stretch oneself on, and the covering too narrow to wrap oneself in.

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Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2001

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Isaiah begins this section challenging the leaders of Judah with their attempt to make a deal with evil, death and the grave. God tells Judah that he intends to place a measuring line in Judah. This is a prophecy of Jesus who established the moral line in creation. He has the power and right to judge everything.

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Jesus breaks humanities covenant with evil and death. Paul would tells us our fear of death is the power of sin in us. Jesus broke the power of sin and releases us from our covenant with evil and death. In Christ we have the right to identify evil. Jesus said that he came into the world to convict the world of sin.

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Psalm 36:1-2 [ESV]

1 *«To the choirmaster. Of David, the servant of the LORD.»*

Transgression speaks to the wicked deep
in his heart;

there is no fear of God before his eyes.

2 For he flatters himself in his own eyes
that his iniquity cannot be found out and
hated.

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When we shrink back into a relativistic view of evil. The idea that evil is “in the eye of the beholder”. When we face evil in its raw ugly state we can not turn away from it. We must also face the reality that the sin at work in us if not repented of and renounced can work its way out into great evil. As Isaiah said: The bed is too short ... the blanket is too narrow to cover our own evil.

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Mark 2:9-11 [ESV]

9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'?

10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — he said to the paralytic —

11 "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home."

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Procrustes, entertains
Theseus.

In the Greek myth the hero Theseus passes through this part of Greece and visits the giant Procrustes and forces him into his own bed where Theseus visits on him the justice of receiving his own evil. Jesus came to visit on himself our punishment of our evil so that we do not have to live under condemnation. But Jesus does not shy away from identifying our evil.

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Judgement is the result of what we have done,
Mercy is God's response to our failure.