

## **“Quit Kicking The Goats!”**

Ecclesiastes 12:11-12

### **Introduction:**

1. Solomon the wisest man that has ever lived made this statement.
  - a. **Ec 12:11-12** *The words of wise men are like goads, and masters of these collections are like well-driven nails; they are given by one Shepherd. 12 But beyond this, my son, be warned: the writing of many books is endless, and excessive devotion to books is wearying to the body.*
2. He also said: *That which has been is that which will be, And that which has been done is that which will be done. So, there is nothing new under the sun. **Ecc. 1:9***
3. Simpler said, “Nothing is New”.
  - a. There is no “new” wisdom out there undiscovered.
  - b. It is the same wisdom that has existed from the beginning of mans existence.
  - c. Understand that all wisdom is from God
4. Yet we kick, or maybe more fitting today resist the words of wise men.
  - a. Which means that we really are resisting God’s advice.
5. Today so many people are actually fighting, rebelling, and cursing the source of all the things that they are blessed with.
  - a. Most of all the source of their very existence!
6. We are so quick to resist God’s wisdom and hold fast to mans. Ecc. 12:12
  - a. Dr. Phil
  - b. Dr. Laura
  - c. Dr. Ruth

*This morning let us look at some of the Godly goads in our life and how we responded to them.*

### **I. What is a goad?**

A. **Definition:** Something that pricks like a goad: THORN: something that urges or stimulates into action: SPUR

### **B. Illustration of a Goad; (Show Goad, that Hugh A. made)**

1. One of the modern goads is a stick that delivers an electrical shock (hot shot). Livestock will become so familiar with the popping sound of it that you don’t have to even touch them with it.

### **C. Some Times Goads are used inappropriately.**

1. Using nothing but fear to motive people to obedience.

2. Using nothing but grace to motive people to feeling safe.
3. Abusing the disciple of the Lord on members.
4. Or not using them at all.

**D. A Goad Will Always force a response.**

1. The subject of the goad will have the natural urge to kick against it.
2. But a response will be shown, either in the positive or negative.

**E. God's goads are valuable in motivating us towards maturity.**

1. His Word has been described as a very powerful goad. A sword, Hammer & Fire.

**Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

**Jeremiah 23:29** "Is not My word like fire?" declares the LORD, "and like a hammer which shatters a rock?"

**2. Paul's story of his own conversion.**

- i. Acts 26:14 "And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.
3. It's amazing to read this and consider that God was trying to goad wicked Paul to salvation.
4. Notice that God, no matter how vile a person provides goads to try to save them.

**II. Ways We Kick Against God's Goads;**

**A. Acting selfishly Vs. Maintaining Self-Control**

1. Self-control: to exercise restraining or directing influence over our self.
2. A selfish person is more concerned about satisfying themselves first regardless of the consequences to other people.
  - a. Gamblers
  - b. Drug Addicts
  - c. Sexual deviants
  - d. Alcoholics

3. They will stand by and not only witness the harmful effects of their selflessness, but are the actual ones doing it.

**B. Choosing Sin (Impurity) vs. Choosing Holiness. 1Pet. 1:16**

**1 Peter 1:16** because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

1. Only a person who is holy is one who is perfect in goodness and righteousness are valuable for commitment entirely to God.
2. God makes us holy.

**C. Giving Up On God vs. Remaining Faithful To God.**

1. Faith comes from hearing God's word. **Rom 10:17**
2. Without faith you cannot please God, and will not enter His rest.

**Hebrews 11:6** NASB 6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

**Hebrews 4:3** NASB 3 For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, "AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST," although His works were finished from the foundation of the world.

**D. Treating Others With No Mercy vs. Having a Forgiving Spirit.**

1. How many times must I forgive? Ask Peter! **Matt. 18:21**
2. Always forgive. **Matt.18: 22**
3. Remember the parable of the unmerciful servant.

**E. Trusting In The Hope of the World vs. Placing Your Hope in God.**

1. Abraham's hope of a child according to the physical hope versus the hope that God gave him. **Rom.4: 18**

Romans 4:18 NASB 18 In hope against hope he believed, in order that he might become a father of many nations, according to that which had been spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE."

2. Do we have a hope of getting to heaven based on the world or God?

## F. *Blaming God For Suffering vs. maturing through Suffering.*

1. Paul's thorn in his side, how did he respond to it? **2 Cor. 12:9**

**2 Corinthians 12:9** NASB 9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

2. Suffering can have a beneficial result.
- 3.

**Romans 5:3** NASB 3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;

4. Two of the most spiritual maturing benefits of suffering are;
  - a. Humility
  - b. Perseverance

5. Many times our greatest temptations to sin come during our suffering.

**a.** God will not give more than we can handle. **1Co 10:13**  
**Jam. 1:12-17**

**b.** **1Co 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

6. Job must have felt like God's goads had ripped right through him.

### III. *God's Goads Are Gracious because...*

#### A. *We Have Access To Heavenly Blessings, which are in Christ. Eph.1:3*

1. Heavenly Blessings that we receive;

**a.** Joy of our salvation through reconciliation. **Rom. 5:11**

**Romans 5:11** NASB 11 And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

- b. The Word of God.
- c. Forgiveness.
- d. Partakers of the divine nature,

**2Pe 1:4** *For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of [the] divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.*

2. We have no blessings from God if we reject Christ's;

- a. Teachings **Ecc.12: 11**
- b. Authority.
- c. Apostles.
- d. His Elders in local congregations.
- e. Those who teach the Gospel. **Ecc. 12:11**

### **B. We Have Access To Christ Kingdom**

1. We kick against this goad through perverting His kingdom.
2. Some Christians refuse to become an integral part of a congregation.
3. Some Christians fail to stimulate or be stimulated to love or good deeds. **Heb 10:24**

**Hebrews 10:24-25** and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

### **C. We Have God's Love.**

1. God so loves the World that He gives us...
  - a. His Son as a sacrifice for our sins. **Rom 5:8**

**Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

- b. Freedom from sin through forgiveness, which is received in baptism. Acts 2:38; **1 Pet. 3:21**

**1 Peter 3:21** NASB 21 And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you--not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience--through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

c. His Discipline.

**Hebrews 12:5** and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM;

**Conclusion;**

1. God's goads direct us towards where we need to go, because the way of man is not within himself.
  - a. **Pr 14:12** *There is a way [which seems] right to a man, but its end is the way of death.*
2. Ultimately just the presence of God's goads will serve its propose.
3. Are you going to stop quick kicking against the goads and allow them to motivate you towards spiritual maturity?
4. Do you feel safe and secure with you life and the direction, remember the Apostle Paul?
  - a. He too was just like you and maybe have had a better reason for feeling that way than you.

**Philippians 3:4-8** NASB 4 *although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. 7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ,*

5. If your not a Christian, accept this as an opportune time to let the word of God move you toward salvation.

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