

## Doctrine of Troublemakers

### A Troublemaker Defined

1. A trouble maker is someone who brings needless heartache and sorrow to others because of selfish interests.
2. During the conquest of Jericho the children of Israel were warned by Joshua not to become troublemakers through covetousness.
  - *Joshua 6:18 And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. 19 But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the Lord: they shall come into the treasury of the Lord.*
3. One man named Achan did not listen. Succumbing to temptation he took possessions from the captured city. As he latter confessed, “*When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it*” (Joshua 7:21).
4. By promoting his self interests Achan became a troublemaker in Israel.
  - *Joshua 7:25 And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? The Lord shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones.*
5. A trouble maker must be distinguished from someone who brings trouble inadvertently as the daughter of Jephthah brought to her father and family. Her story is told in Judges 11.
  - *Judges 11:32 So Jephthah passed over unto the children of Ammon to fight against them; and the Lord delivered them into his hands. 33 And he smote them from Aroer, even till thou come to Minnith, even twenty cities, and unto the plain of the vineyards, with a very great slaughter. Thus the children of Ammon were subdued before the children of Israel. 34 And Jephthah came to Mizpeh unto his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances: and she was his only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter. 35 And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he rent his clothes, and said, Alas, my daughter! thou hast brought me very low, and thou art one of them that trouble me: for I have opened my mouth unto the Lord, and I cannot go back. 36 And she said unto him, My father, if thou hast opened thy mouth unto the Lord, do to me according to that which hath proceeded out of thy mouth; forasmuch as the Lord hath taken vengeance for thee of thine enemies, even of the children of Ammon. 37 And she said unto her father, Let this thing be done for me: let me alone two months, that I may go up and down upon the mountains, and bewail my virginity, I and my fellows. 38 And he said, Go. And he sent her away for two months: and she went with her companions, and bewailed her virginity upon the mountains.*

39 *And it came to pass at the end of two months, that she returned unto her father, who did with her according to his vow which he had vowed: and she knew no man. And it was a custom in Israel, 40 That the daughters of Israel went yearly to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in a year.*

### **Notable Biblical Troublemakers**

6. A number of notable troublemakers are set forth in *Scripture*.

- Ham was a troublemaker. *Genesis 9:20 And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: 21 And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. 22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without.* There was no compelling reason for Ham to inform others of the state of his father. His conduct only served to cause trouble and brought a curse upon his grandson.
- The brothers of Joseph were troublemakers. Jealous and angry the brothers of Joseph wanted to kill him but in the providence of God sold him into slavery. *Genesis 37:23 And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him; 24 And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it. 25 And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt. 26 And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood? 27 Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content. 28 Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.*
- Korah was a troublemaker. *Numbers 16:1 Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men: 2 And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown: 3 And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the Lord?*
- Haman was a troublemaker. In his quest for personal political power, honor and glory Haman plotted the death of many Persian Jews in general wanting to kill Mordecai in particular. His story is told in the book of Esther.
- Absalom was a troublemaker. *Psalms 3:1 A Psalm of David, when he fled from Ab'salom his son. 3 Lord, how are they increased that trouble me! Many are they that rise up against me.*

- Sanballat (strength), a Moabite of Horonaim was a troublemaker. Holding a place of command in Samaria at the time Nehemiah was preparing to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem (c. BC 445), Sanballat set himself to oppose every measure for the welfare of Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2:10, 13; 13:28).
- The Pharisees were troublemakers. They plotted and schemed so much against Christ they wanted to kill him. *Matthew 12:14 Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.*
- The Judaizer were troublemakers. The Judaizers wanted to bring Christians back under the Law of Moses. *Galatians 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.... Galatians 5:12 I would they were even cut off which trouble you.*
- Alexander the Coppersmith was a troublemaker. *2 Timothy 4:14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:* While most troublemakers try to enlist others in their cause some, like Alexander are happy to operate independently.

7. If not careful, even good people can become troublemakers.

- Aaron and Miraim became troublemakers towards Moses. *Numbers 12:1 And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. 2 And they said, Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the Lord heard it. 3 (Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)*
- The disciples became troublemakers towards a good woman. *Matthew 26:6 Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, 7 There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat at meat. 8 But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste? 9 For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor. 10 When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? For she hath wrought a good work upon me. 11 For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always. 12 For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial. 13 Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.*

### **The Trouble with Trouble Makers**

9. When good people begin to make trouble for others they have several problems.

- There is the problem of pride. Troublemakers are characterized by extreme sensitivity. They have a public image they have cultivated and are sensitive to it being challenged — even with the truth.
- There is the problem of self image. Troublemakers never see themselves as the problem. The problem is always others. Paul and Silas were arrested for preaching the gospel of redeeming love. Those who opposed the gospel saw *them* as troublemakers. *Acts 16:20 And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city.*

In the church when an individual stops wanting to do God's work God's way he or she will insist on their own method and shift the blame for the resulting discord. Usually the blame is redirected towards the pastor. An exalted self image never allows an individual to accept responsibility for the discord and disharmony they have consciously generated in order to gain a following and press their will on the assembly.

- There is the problem of deep and abiding anger. Troublemakers are angry people and they are dangerous too. Sometimes they will literally go and get a gun to enforce their will. Most will use a legal “*gun*” in the form of a lawyer or a parliamentary rule book, but have their way they will no matter who they hurt.

Even little children will be used. I have personally seen adults put into the hands of innocent children false documents for distribution. Children are pitted against their childhood friends and their tender hearts are turned against people they once naturally loved.

- There is the problem of wanting to retaliate. Troublemakers want to hurt others. Read the biblical narrative of all the troublemakers set forth and notice this common characteristic. Troublemakers have an object for their malice.
- There is the problem of excessive vengeance. Not only are troublemakers verbally and physically dangerous, not only do they enlist others in their cause, including children but they want to retaliate in a larger way than the matter warrants. There is an old expression about killing a fly with a cannon instead of a fly-swatter. Pity the soul that dares to call a person a troublemaker who has been found making trouble.

10. Unless God grants the gift of repentance troublemakers will be confirmed in a lifestyle of evil [injurious behavior] because of the evil they have done and gotten away with – or so they think.

11. The gospel antidote for troublemakers is found in Psalm 133. “*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! 2 It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; 3 As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.*”