

## Radical Amputation

*While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, <sup>2</sup> who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate and bowed down before these gods. <sup>3</sup> So Israel joined in worshipping the Baal of Peor. And the LORD's anger burned against them.*

*Numbers 25:1-3 (NIV)*

*<sup>4</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of these people, kill them and expose them in broad daylight before the LORD, so that the LORD's fierce anger may turn away from Israel."*

*<sup>5</sup> So Moses said to Israel's judges, "Each of you must put to death those of your men who have joined in worshipping the Baal of Peor."*

*<sup>6</sup> Then an Israelite man brought to his family a Midianite woman right before the eyes of Moses and the whole assembly of Israel while they were weeping at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. <sup>7</sup> When Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, the priest, saw this, he left the assembly, took a spear in his hand <sup>8</sup> and followed the Israelite into the tent. He drove the spear through both of them--through the Israelite and into the woman's body. Then the plague against the Israelites was stopped; <sup>9</sup> but those who died in the plague numbered 24,000.*

*<sup>10</sup> The LORD said to Moses, <sup>11</sup> "Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, the priest, has turned my anger away from the Israelites; for he was as zealous as I am for my honor among them, so that in my zeal I did not put an end to them. <sup>12</sup> Therefore tell him I am making my covenant of peace with him. <sup>13</sup> He and his descendants will have a covenant of a lasting priesthood, because he was zealous for the honor of his God and made atonement for the Israelites."*

*Numbers 25:4-13 (NIV)*

*<sup>3</sup> You saw with your own eyes what the LORD did at Baal Peor. The LORD your God destroyed from among you everyone who followed the Baal of Peor, <sup>4</sup> but all of you who held fast to the LORD your God are still alive today.*

*Deuteronomy 4:3-4 (NIV)*

*After you have had children and grandchildren and have lived in the land a long time--if you then become corrupt and make any kind of idol, doing evil in the eyes of the LORD your God and provoking him to anger, <sup>26</sup> I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you this day that you will quickly perish from the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess. You will not live there long but will certainly be destroyed. <sup>27</sup> The LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and only a few of you will survive among the nations to which the LORD will drive you. <sup>28</sup> There you will worship man-made gods of wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or eat or smell.*

*<sup>29</sup> **But if from there** you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul. <sup>30</sup> When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to the LORD your God and obey him.*

*<sup>31</sup> For the LORD your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your forefathers, which he confirmed to them by oath.*

*Deuteronomy 4:25-31 (NIV)*

*Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. <sup>19</sup> A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. <sup>20</sup> In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.*

*Acts 19:18-20 (NIV)*

THE PRINCIPLE: \_\_\_\_\_ PRECEDES \_\_\_\_\_.

THE PRACTICE: RADICAL AMPUTATION

*So if your eye—even if it is your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup> And if your hand—even if it is your stronger hand—causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.*

*Matthew 5:29-30 (NLT)*

*If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out.*

*Mark 9:43 (NIV)*

*The Israelites have sinned; they have broken the agreement I commanded them to obey. They took some of the things I commanded them to destroy. They have stolen and lied and have taken those things for themselves. <sup>12</sup> That is why the Israelites cannot face their enemies. They turn away from the fight and run, because I have commanded that they be destroyed. I will not help you anymore unless you destroy everything as I commanded you.*

*<sup>13</sup> "Now go! Make the people holy. Tell them, 'Set yourselves apart to the Lord for tomorrow. The Lord, the God of Israel, says some of you are keeping things he commanded you to destroy. You will never defeat your enemies until you throw away those things.*

*Joshua 7:11-13 (NCV)*

*Among the things I saw was a beautiful coat from Babylonia and about five pounds of silver and more than one and one-fourth pounds of gold. I wanted these things very much for myself, so I took them. You will find them buried in the ground under my tent, with the silver underneath."*

*Joshua 7:21 (NCV)*

*Then Joshua and all the people led Achan son of Zerah to the Valley of Trouble. They also took the silver, the coat, the gold, Achan's sons, daughters, cattle, donkeys, sheep, tent, and everything he owned. Joshua said, "I don't know why you caused so much trouble for us, but now the Lord will bring trouble to you." Then all the people threw stones at Achan and his family until they died. Then the people burned them. ...After this the Lord was no longer angry.*

*Joshua 7:24-26 (NCV)*

*Then the Lord said to Joshua, "Don't be afraid or give up. Lead all your fighting men to Ai. I will help you defeat the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land. <sup>2</sup> You will do to Ai and its king what you did to Jericho and its king. Only this time you may take all the wealth and keep it for yourselves. Now tell some of your soldiers to set up an ambush behind the city."*

*Joshua 8:1-2 (NCV)*

*During the fighting the army of Israel chased the men of Ai into the fields and desert and killed all of them. Then they went back to Ai and killed everyone there. <sup>25</sup> All the people of Ai died that day, twelve thousand men and women.  
Joshua 8:24-25 (NCV)*

*Then Joshua burned the city of Ai and made it a pile of ruins. And it is still like that today.  
Joshua 8:28 (NCV)*

*But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.  
Romans 13:14 (NKJV)*