



Make Wise Reasonable Vows

“... When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools:” (Ecclesiastes 5:4).

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Vows are scriptural. They are important to God, and have the potential of bringing miraculous breakthroughs. Breaking vows attract divine repercussions. This study flags up the danger of foolish vows - a salient reminder to make wise reasonable / well considered vows, and more importantly keeping them!

“At that time Herod the tetrarch heard of the fame of Jesus, 2 And said unto his servants, This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead; and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him. 3 For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife. 4 For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her. 5 And when he would have put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet. 6 But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod. 7 Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask. 8 And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger. 9 And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded it to be given her. 10 And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison. 11 And his head was brought in a charger, and given to the damsel: and she brought it to her mother. 12 And his disciples came, and took up the body, and buried it, and went and told Jesus” (Matthew 14:1-12).

As evident in this story, the hallmarks to foolish vows which all should avoid, include:

- 1) Being rash to vow (vs. 7). “Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.... 4 When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. 5 Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. 6 Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be an-

“Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay (Ecclesiastes 5:5)

gry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?” (Ecclesiastes 5:2-6),

- 2) Lifestyle and activities governed by worldly laws and principles “Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees” (Isaiah 10:1),
- 3) Living to please people rather than God (Galatians 1:10),
- 4) Ignorance of God's word and the fact that two wrongs do not make a right. Murdering a prophet to keep a foolish vow based on a foolish request of a minor, inspired by jealous wife who wants to cover her sins, do not constitute righteousness. According to Numbers 30:3-13, he had the power to disannul the foolish request of the daughter but failed to do so, because of wanting to please people at the expense of pleasing God.

The scripture is replete with examples of people like Hannah, Jephthah who used vows in the right manner to gain the favour of God, obtain miracles and breakthroughs. The challenges of life offers everyone unique opportunities to do business with God through vows. Vows are serious matters with God, who watches over their fulfilment. King Saul, got into trouble with God through foolish zeal in trying to exterminate the Gibeonites from Israel, thereby breaking the vows Joshua made with them, many year before he (Saul) was even born. Note that, even though Joshua made the vow by error through deception of the Gibeonites, God still honoured it! **“If a man vow a vow unto the Lord, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth”** (Numbers 30:2-13). The seriousness of vows, demands carefulness to make and keep only good ones.