

1 Kings 12:25-33

Jesus Never Said It Would Be Easy: When Spirituality is Packaged as Fun/Fast and Convenient...Run Don't Walk Away

Jeroboam's (Selfishly Centered) Fear v25-27

If His People Worshipped the LORD Correctly They Would Not be Welded to Him

Then Jeroboam built up Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. And he built up Penuel also. Then he said to himself, my kingdom will go back to the House of David if the people offer sacrifices in the LORD's Temple in Jerusalem for the heart of this people will turn back to Rehoboam king of Judah and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam.

Jeroboam's (Spiritually Corrupt) Folly v28-33

He Marketed Worship To Make it Easy/Convenient (Albeit Incorrect)

So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, it is too inconvenient for you to go all the way to Jerusalem to worship the LORD. So worship Him here and celebrate that He brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Jeroboam had set up a worship center in Bethel and another in Dan. This was serious sin in God's eyes, but it was convenient and new so it was popular w/the people. Jeroboam also built mini-temples on high places and to be inclusive he made priests from all the people, not just those who were actually qualified.

And Jeroboam appointed a feast on the 15th day of the 8th month like the feast that was in Judah and he offered sacrifices on the altar. He did this in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves he made. And he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places he had made. He went up to the altar that he had made in Bethel on the 15th day in the 8th month in the month he had devised and instituted a feast for the people of Israel and went to the altar to make offerings.

Quick/Easy Commitment to Christ Isn't Commitment It's Just Personal Convenience

It will either not last for a long time (when the novelty wears off) or 2: it will lead to a smug pseudo-spiritual superiority complex "proved" by selective citing of statistics-focusing on externals: the size of the organization/the number of people and the money it generates.

Even "True Religion" Can Be Misused to Mislead Well-Meaning But Naive People

Jeroboam Then/Some Tele-Evangelists Now....and this is used by skeptics to "prove" that Christianity is bogus and Christian leaders are corrupt.

Doing the Right Thing(s) the Wrong Way(s) is Always a Bad Thing

Bible McNuggets like Chicken McNuggets are very tasty/extremely popular but over time they are not good for anyone, except for the wallets of the people at "the home office."