Take heed

Introduction

- Happy Mother's Day
- Not my typical Mother's Day sermon
- I want to look at something Paul warned the Corinthian believers about
- Key verse: 1 Cor 10:12 (ESV) (12) Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.
- This is a sobering verse, and a sobering passage.
- Let me share from the first 13 verses of chapter 10 this Mother's Day

Message

OT Example (1-5, 6, 11)
- In v6 we read 1 Cor 10:6 (ESV) (6) Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.
- What things? Who are “them?” And in what way?

Called to be His (1-2)
- 1 Cor 10:1-2 (ESV) (1) For I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, (2) and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea
- All were under the cloud
- Led out of Egypt.
- Chosen, called
- They were His firstborn
- Secured by a covenant made with Abram centuries earlier
- Delivered from Egypt with powerful signs and miracles
- Baptized in the Red Sea
Supernaturally provided for (3-4)
- vv3-4 (3) and all ate the same spiritual food, (4) and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.
- On a journey to a promised land (as are we)
- Supernaturally called out
- Sustained in that journey - manna, water in the desert
- God was their God, and God took care of them!

Destroyed (5)
- Here's the part we need to pay attention to 1 Cor 10:5 (ESV) (5) Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.
- They were his - rescued, baptized, led and provided for
- A promised inheritance
- Yet they were destroyed and we get a hint in 1 Cor 10:6 (ESV) (6) Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.
- Instead of keeping themselves for the Lord - they began to desire evil
- And they were destroyed!
- See 1 Cor 10:11 (ESV) (11) Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.
- We have this OT narrative so that we can learn and not repeat their mistakes

Call to action (7-10, 12)
- So we have the example from the children of Israel
- What are we to do with it?

Don't replicate their sins (see 7-10)
- 1 Cor 10:7-10 (ESV) (7) Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” (8) We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. (9) We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, (10) nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.
- This is what they did wrong and were destroyed
- Paul has selected three specific sins
Sexual Immorality (8)
- The specific instance was when Balaam convinced the Moabite leaders to send women to seduce the men
- God sent a plague to destroy them
- Great temptation towards it now

Idolater
- worship of other gods
- Not a temptation in the way we might think: going to a temple and bowing before an idol
- The specific instance was after they’d come out - Moses was on the mountain and the people got impatient
- They made golden calves
- They had an orgy - making gods that allowed them to do what they wanted, not live holy separate lives
- Huge temptation now! Creating "god" to allow us to be / do what we want, instead of conforming to his will

Test
- **Numbers 21:4-6** 4 From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. 5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” 6 Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.
- They were not satisfied with God's plan for them
- They blamed him for taking them in the wilderness
- He had sustained them - and they were there because of rebellion
- God wasn't doing it like they wanted!

Grumble
- Through their journey, they often complained
- Nothing was ever good enough
- Are we grumbling?
Take heed while you can (12)
- Again the title of the message
- We need to be aware that just because we have been called, led, fed and promised - we can still fall!
- See 1 Cor 10:12 (ESV) (12) Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.
- Today - we need to assess whether we are really standing in his grace doing his will

Promise of provision (13)
- See 1 Cor 10:13 (ESV) (13) No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.
- Whatever test, trial you're facing - others have faced it
- God will not let you be tempted more than your ability. Note Supernatural ability - having been born again we are no longer slaves to sin!
- He will get us home!

Our response

Repent and return
- Jesus Christ and him crucified

Take heed