

So Near, Yet So Far

Introduction

1. Teams on the brink of victory, yet falling just short – “so near, yet so far.” Some may never get another opportunity to experience the victory as they often reflect that they were “so near, yet so far.”
2. In the Bible, we read about individuals who were “so near, yet so far” from where they needed or wanted to be.
3. Let’s examine some “so near, yet so far” examples.

Ananias and Sapphira

1. These two were so near to being saved.
Acts 5:1-11
2. They were converted, but Greed caused them to be lost.

The Rich Young Ruler

1. He was within one “thing” of having eternal life.
Matthew 19:16-22
2. He was so close to eternal life, yet so far away in the end.
 - A. The love of money caused him to walk away sorrowful because he knew that he missed eternal life because of it.

Moses

1. **Moses was so near the land of Canaan, yet he could not enter into it because he struck the rock twice instead of speaking to the rock as God had told him to.**
 - A. **In Numbers 20 we find the account of the Israelites in the wilderness of Zin, and they were without water (v. 2). Moses and Aaron prayed, and God spoke to Moses saying, **Numbers 20:8-12****
2. **Moses was told to speak to the rock. Instead, he called the people rebels (v. 10) and said, "shall we" bring forth the water" implying that it was the work of Moses and Aaron to provide for the people.**
 - A. **It was not. Rather, it was the Lord who would provide the life-giving water.**
3. **Because of this sin, when Moses had led the Israelites to the entrance of the land of Canaan, He could only see it, but not enter in. "So near, yet so far."**

Foolish Virgins

1. **The foolish virgins were near the entrance of the wedding feast, standing at the door.**
 - A. **However, they did not come prepared and it cost them dearly.**
Matthew 25:1-13
2. **While they departed to get some more oil, the door was shut. They returned to find that they were "so near, yet so far" away.**

Felix

1. Felix was so near to the saving faith that he found himself actually trembling before the apostle Paul.
Acts 24:22-25
2. Felix was waiting for that “convenient season” but as far as we know, he never found it. As a result he was lost, being “so near, yet so far.”

Agrippa

1. Agrippa was so near to becoming a Christian.
Acts 26:26-29
2. For Agrippa, it was just too much for him to give up to live the life as a Christian, being dedicated to the cause of Christ.
 - A. As a result, he was lost – “so near, yet so far.”

Many Today

1. There are many religious people who are so near the entrance of heaven – to live in eternity with our heavenly Father.
 - A. Only the judgment stands between them and eternal joy.
Matthew 25:31-46
Matthew 7:21
2. In the end, they are wrong in their religious beliefs, not practicing what God instructed in the Bible.
 - A. “So near, yet so far.”

