

ZECHARIAH: RETURN

Zechariah 7:8-14 What Are God's People to Do?

(Quotes from the AV/KJV)

II. Point 2 of the Sermon:

"THE WORD"

8. And the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah, saying,

9. Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying,

God has spoken, not you, nor your relative, nor your neighbour, nor even your king or president!

"SAYING"

1) Execute true judgment,

a. Get your courts in order. Official justice had gone wrong. Life was being organized unfairly.

b. Naboth's Vineyard (I Kings 21). A man is murdered by Jezebel and his vineyard seized.

2) and shew mercy and compassion every man to his brother:

a. Why show mercy and compassion? Because we are all sinners and all have need of mercy. God has shown it to us and we must show it to others.

3) 10 And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor;

a. "Look out" especially for those who are disadvantaged and weak. They have no companion helper, position, power or money.

4) and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart.

a. This thought has ridden the highway of my mind for weeks! It screams down the turnpike of my nervous system!

b. God is concerned with how we think not simply with how we act.

c. Mark 4:35-7:23 tells us of the 3 conditions of the human heart. Jesus spoke to that point.

"BUT"

1) 11 But they refused to hearken,

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a. They shut God out. No, no, no to God!

2) *and pulled away the shoulder,*

3) *and stopped their ears, that they should not hear.*

a. S_____ and A_____ stuffed cotton in their ears to avoid hearing the Gospel at the leprosarium. They were of a major religion, but later came to the Lord and became evangelists.

4) *12 Yea, they made their hearts [as] an adamant stone,*

- a. The NIV says as hard as flint.
- b. The disciples did not understand the miracle of the loaves for their hearts were hardened (Mark 5:56).
- c. This hardening however was worse. They made their hearts hard, hard as stone or flint, used to make axes, spear heads and cutting utensils.

5) *lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets:*

- a. This statement connects the law and the prophets as both being the word of God and inspired by his Spirit.
- b. There are three important elements here: a) the word, b) the Spirit, c) the prophet.
- c. The Lord was going to respond very soon to this refusal to listen. It has been mentioned twice now.
- d. Jesus cried out to the people of his day that they listen. "He who has ears to hear let him hear" (Mark 4:9).

"THEREFORE"

1) *therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts.*

- a. This wrath reminds me of Romans 1:18, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of men..."
- b. Have you not ever been angered by the sight of someone being mistreated? Of course we have!
- c. If so how do you think the Lord feels when He sees people being mistreated? He is angered and will finally bring judgement. He gives time for the wicked to repent but must eventually punish on behalf of the downtrodden.
- d. Even a tyrant and murderer like Abimelech is given three years to repent (Judges 9:22, 23).

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2) 13 Therefore it is come to pass, [that] as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts:

- a. God could have brought judgement without warning! He had freed them from slavery, guided them through the wilderness, given them a land, cities, fields, prosperity, to say nothing of His presence in the tabernacle and His Word in the Law.
- b. If I had done so much for someone and they rejected me I would have been furious!
- c. Israel had taken the gift and rejected the Giver!

3) 14 But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations whom they knew not.

- a. The Lord took them back to where they started, slaves in a foreign land. If they were not willing to obey God then He would make them obey other men, foreigners.

4) Thus the land was desolate after them, that no man passed through nor returned: for they laid the pleasant land desolate.

- a. Because they rejected God, his Word and His on going goodness he took away their material good and finally removed them themselves.
- b. They destroyed the land of milk and honey!

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Revised: 7 October 1995

Revised: 12 March 2015