

Trusting in the Lord

Jeremiah 17:5-9

3/09/03

Intro

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Jeremiah has been preaching some difficult things for then to hear. But now in these verses he truly gets to the root of the problem.

These verses are also for us because the heart of man has not changed.

Here he makes a comparison between trusting in man and trusting in God. We have the same challenge today.

When times get difficult, where do you turn for help? That is something for us all to consider, especially when we are in a time of drought in the land.

These verses are insights into learning to trust God.

I. Do not put your trust in man

A. How do you know if you're trusting in man?

- If you're leaning on yourself or someone else
- When you don't need God's Word
- You don't need God's counsel
- You don't find any value in prayer
- There is not a teachable heart

Illus – They were trusting in an alliance with Egypt.

Isaiah 30:1-2 - “Woe to the rebellious children,” declares the Lord, “Who execute a plan, but not Mine, and make an alliance, but not of My Spirit, in order to add sin to sin;

Who proceed down to Egypt, without consulting Me, to take refuge in the safety of Pharaoh, and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt!”

B. Why do people trust in man?

- There is a lack of faith in God.
- Their hearts are turned away from the Lord

C. The result is a life like a bush in the desert

- Does this mean there will be financial fruit? No, this is a spiritual illustration.
- **There will be shallow roots**

Illus – there will be stunted growth. The same bush would grow much larger elsewhere.

Illus – It's dependent on the rain. These are the outward circumstances. Sometimes the desert blooms.

Illus – Even when there appears to be abundance, the spirit is dry and dusty.

Cf) Jeremiah 9:23 - Don't boast in wisdom, strength, or riches...

- There is no connection to the source of life

II. Blessed is the man whose trust is the Lord

A. His confidence is in the Lord

- He trusts **in** the Lord and his trust *is* the Lord.

Ps 40:4 How blessed is the man who has made the LORD his trust, and has not turned to the proud, nor to those who lapse into falsehood.

Ps 27: 1-3 The Lord is the strength of my life

B. He will be like a tree planted by streams of water

- You can't see where the roots go below the surface.
- They are connected to the source of life

Psalm 73: 25-28 – God is the strength of my heart.

C. He will not cease to yield fruit

- **Troubles** will come, **drought** will come, but there is a source of hope and strength under the surface.
- **He who abides in Christ will see the fruit of it.**
 - He listens to God's counsel.
 - He stays close to the Lord

III. It's all about the heart

Vs 9

A. The heart is deceitful above all things

- **“Who can know it?”** We judge other people a lot better than we judge ourselves.

Illus – Most people believe they are right almost all the time. I.e.) Ryan and the discussion in front of Mr. Peeps.

Illus – If the well is poisoned, there is little gained in painting the pump

B. But when we trust God in our hearts...

- We will not need to fear when the drought comes
- We will not need to be anxious in a year of drought (a long time without rain)

John 14:1, “Do not let your hearts be troubled, trust in God, trust also in Me.”

Illus – Our joy should not be dependant on whether it rains...

Conclusion

**How deep are your roots into the Lord?
What is your source of life?
Is your joy dependent on your outward
circumstances – on whether or not it rains.**

Illus – Nicole and leaning on the boat