

Reflection Questions

Doctrine (What does this passage teach us):

How does this passage demonstrate the need for the New Covenant?

Reproof (What wrong thinking does this passage expose):

What are some excuses that we might give for disregarding God's word?

Correction (How does this passage fix wrong thinking):

Why do we have less excuse for disregarding God's word today compared to the Israelites in Jeremiah 35?

Instruction in Righteousness (How does this passage help us to continue):

How does Exodus 20:12 explain God's blessing on the Recharities?

Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, July 31, 2022

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Zechariah 3:1-5

Song #196 ~ His Robes for Mine

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Job 38:1-41

Song #15 ~ Behold Our God

Scripture Reading: Job 39:1-30

Prayer

Sermon ~ Jeremiah 35:1-19

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song #211 ~ A Debtor to Mercy

Jeremiah 33:15

"In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth."

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Text: Jeremiah 35:1-19

Theme: The Lord of Hosts has spoken, listen carefully.

Introduction: Who are the Rechabites? The Rechabites were related to Jethro, Moses' father-in-law (cf. 1 Chron. 2:55; Jud. 1:16). Heber, the husband of Jael the woman who killed Sisera with a tent spike, was also a Kenite (cf. Jud. 4:11, 17, 5:24). These same Kenites helped Israel when they fled from Egypt (cf. 1 Sam. 15:6).

Jonadab (i.e. Jehonadab), the man mentioned in Jeremiah 35 is the same man who slaughtered the house of Ahab in 842 BC (cf. 2 Kings 10:15-17). The account in Jeremiah 35 is almost 250 years later (around 599 BC). Yet, the Rechabites honored their father Jonadab by obeying the 3 commands he gave (8). Do not drink wine (6). Dwell in tents not houses (7). Do not sow seed or plant a vineyard (7).

- I) The Rechabites willingly obeyed their earthly father, yet God's people refuse to obey Him (cf. 13-14)
 - A. Even though the temptation to disregard their father's command was strong, the Rechabites remained faithful (1-11).
 1. When Babylon came to attack Israel, the Rechabites decided to dwell in Jerusalem for safety reasons (2, 10-11). Since they had already temporarily gone against the command to not dwell in houses, it would have been easy to break the command to drink wine (5). Yet, they obeyed Jonadab (6).
 2. Even though Jeremiah the prophet and Igdaliah, the man of God, offered wine to them, they refused (4-5).

3. This event was probably a public event. The Rechabites probably stood out like an Amish family would stand out in the city. Not only that, but there was a large group of them (3) and they met near the temple gate (i.e. near the doorkeepers chamber; 4).
4. Finally, Jonadab had given these commands almost 250 years ago (cf. 2 Kings 10:15-17). Just to put this in perspective, 250 years is from now to George Washington. It would have been easy for them to view these commands as outdated. Yet, they obeyed.

- B. In contrast, God's people have repeatedly rejected God's words (12-19).
 1. God sent His prophets over and over again to preach the message, yet the people would not hear (15). We have a long list of prophets recorded in scripture and that list doesn't even scratch the surface of all of the prophets God sent.
 2. 4 times in these verses God refers to Himself as the Lord of hosts or the Lord of armies (13, 17, 18, 19). If they refuse to hear His words, He will come after them like the Babylonian army.

Conclusion: Jeremiah has already told us why they refused to obey—it is because their heart is desperately sick (Jer. 17:9). They simply cannot obey. The whole book of Jeremiah points to the need for a greater covenant (Heb. 8:6-7, 13)—one in which people desire to obey God (Jer. 31:33). This New Covenant was inaugurated by the blood of Jesus.

If you find yourself unlike the children of Israel—in that you desire to obey God's commands—then pause with me this morning and praise Him for changing your desires.