

Isaiah's Distress

Text: Isaiah 22:1-11

Date: 5-30-21 @ 10:30 AM

Isaiah demonstrates that sin must be wept over and in his lamentation he refocuses his life back on God. Mourning over our own sin shifts our focus from selfishness to dependence on God's mercy.

I. Isaiah mourns over the sin and coming storm upon the valley of vision (Isa. 22:1-4).

This valley of vision may not be so much a geographical location as it is a place where revelation was given to a people who were in some ways supposed to be cut off from the world around them.

Jerusalem failed to place their confidence in Jehovah and instead became no different in the world powers who looked to their own flesh for help.

The Jews had been spared defeat by the mercy of God, but they continued in believing this victory was of their own hands. The lesson for all of us remains that victory is always by God's hands. While He chooses to use us as His instruments, the truth stands that we are more than conquerors (only victorious) through Him who loved us (Rom. 8:36).

Isaiah grieved because the people of God were supposed to be the holy priesthood. Instead their sin and debauchery led to the city's downfall. Isaiah was not weeping insomuch over God's judgment as He was over the sin of His people. He did not want to be comforted as this was not the time for it. To not be bitter in weeping would be to ignore the depravity of the sin of His people. Later he would offer comfort to the people (40:1), but Isaiah grieved because God was grieved.

This was mourning over sin because the people were destitute of spiritual life.

Spiritual mourning is seeing sin how God sees it. Mourning isn't placating, excusing, or hiding sin. Mourning recognizes the great need we have and giving that to God, the only One who can meet that need.

Why should we mourn? When should we mourn?

- **We should mourn when we become aware of God's holiness and the magnitude of our sinfulness.**
- **We should mourn over our propensity toward sin.**

"We cannot mourn over sins we see in ourselves unless something good has been done in our hearts by God" – Dr. Gilbert Braithwaite (26).

- **We should mourn over other's sin.**
- **We should mourn because Christ mourned.**

II. Isaiah reveals the horrors of the coming judgment on Jerusalem (Isa. 22:5-11).

Isaiah now uses descriptions of something that takes place in the future as if it had already happened at the time of his writings.

Instead of looking to the Lord God for direct help, they now solely relied on their materials to defend their city.

The nation had fallen into disgrace and instead of repentance towards God, they went to their weapons storehouse in hope that this might be enough to counteract the army that was now on their doorstep.

Jeremiah wrote in Lamentations 1:8, "Jerusalem hath grievously sinned; therefore she is removed: all that honoured her despise her, because they have seen her nakedness: yea, she sigheth, and turneth backward." The protections around the nation had been removed and Jerusalem was about to be dishonored save for God's divine intervention.

CONCLUSION

The nation of God's people should have seen the judgment hand of God. Their name was the valley of vision but their vision was blurred by their own marvelous feats. These achievements though could not save them. These accomplishments would not be the source of their deliverance. The people refused to look for help from God who had long ago supplied them with water. A nation with a vision was actually a nation blinded by its own sin. They could only see what they could hold in their hands.

Who do you and I look to as the Source of help? Do we choose to refuse the Greatest Help and trust our own strength to carry us in the day of battle? God had clearly determined their destruction if they looked away from Him (Deut. 28:15-68).