

The Consequences of Separation from God

Text: Isaiah 59:11-15a

Date: 4-30-23 10:30 AM

III. The prophet responds with a confession of national sin (Isa. 59:9-15) cont.

****The consequence of blindness**

****The consequence of discontentment**

The reason that the whole nation stumbled blindly, growled like a bear, mourned like a dove was that their sins testified against them.

****The consequence of sin's multiplication**

The rich people who thought they were seeking God rightly, fasting, and following the religious protocols (58:2-4) wondered why God didn't hear them. The poor people were upset that no justice or salvation could be found among the nation. God's people had chosen the wind of sin and were reaping the whirlwind of devastating consequences.

One of sin's insidious traits is its deceptive nature. We think God does not see our sin. We sin as though God is not present, but all our deeds are known to Him. Not only are we deceived by thinking the sin is okay but we are deceived in thinking the consequences will be minimal.

Until the sins are removed the blessings cannot come to us nor could they come to the people of Judah.

****The continuation of offenses**

The people had **transgressed** (disregarded and rebelled against God's laws) and **lied** against the Lord. They had **departed** or **backslidden** against God's commandments, **been disloyal** to Him and in continuing in what they knew to be wrong the people were **denying** that Jehovah was their God. Their outward worship looked good but inward in reality it was idolatry and thus falsehood.

The Jew's hearts were full of lies which had been concocted in their minds. ". . .The depth of depravity is reached in that the people are pregnant with and bring forth *words of falsehood*" (Young 436).

****The consequence of forsaking justice and truth**

When justice and truth are nowhere to be found, then uprightness cannot enter.

****The consequence of oppressing the righteous**

When the heart of a nation falters on truth and justice, truth and uprightness will soon go by the wayside. The person who tries to live righteously then becomes the prey. Those who stand for truth and righteousness will become targets (Psalm 1:1 played out). "In such an environment, he who turns away from evil and seeks to do right is oppressed, harassed, and destroyed by evil men (cf. 5:23; 10:2; 32:7; Mic. 2:1-2)" (Young 482).