

Jeremiah 35-36 – 20 July 2014

Richard H. Stout - Walking through a state park near Miami, my wife and I saw a Cuban family enjoying a picnic as half a dozen raccoons begged for handouts. The family responded by tossing them bits of food and saying repeatedly, "Oye, chico, ven aca." (C'mere, boy.") I later confessed to my wife that my first reaction was: That's silly. Raccoons don't speak Spanish.

We just think everyone should be just like us. You know there are people that are REALLY different than us, that are just as saved as you and I?

God's will here point out to us three groups of people that He may want to speak to us thru.

Chapter 35

- Vs 1
 - Chapter 35-36 is a flashback to the days of Jehoiakim before we get back to the final days of the kingdom under Zedekiah in chapter 37.

- Why the flashback? – In chapter 37 Jeremiah is imprisoned and chapter 35-36 shows some of the main reasons for getting of the king's bad side.
- Vs 2
 - Nomadic puritans...but ready for war to gain purity.
 - II Kings 10:15-23 – Jonadab, the son of Rechab went with Jehu King of Israel to destroy the Baal priests at the end of the days of Ahab.
 - The Kenites settled with Caleb and the Judahites. IAW I Chr 2:55
 - Rechabites were descended from the Kenites (Moses' father-in-laws family)
 - Love it when you see a person that can say, "I have no history or heritage in Israel...but I know that they serve the true God and I will follow them as they follow God."
 - **The 1st group that God may want to speak to you thru is someone who isn't in your family.**

- Especially growing up, we think the way Mom and Dad did it was right and others are wrong.
- Have you ever come to a place where you learned that God is different than Mom and Dad on an issue?
- Maybe we need to think this thru and follow truth and not tradition!

- Vs 3-5
 - All these names are given to prove to the people in Jeremiah's time that this happened.
 - Specifics always show proof.
- Vs 6-10
 - They have faithfully kept the traditions of their fathers.
 - From 830BC until present 600BC
 - If the Rechabites could keep these strict traditions just out of respect for their forefathers, why couldn't Judah keep God's commandments, if for no other reason than just out of respect for Him?

- The 2nd group that God may want to speak to you thru is a different denomination or the Amish.
 - I wish Christians of different stripes would stay in one church and balance each other out instead of splitting into denominations.
- Vs 11 – The only reason that they’re even in the city is b/c Babylon is invading.
- Vs 12-17
 - Vs 15 – “But you have not inclined your ear.”
 - Vs 17 – “I have called unto them, but they have not answered.”
 - What does that Lord want from us?
 - Answer the call of the Lord on our heart.
 - Some of us He’s calling to pray daily for a person or specific people.
 - Some of us He’s calling to publically repent to a friend.
 - Some of us He’s calling to actually go talk to someone about the Lord today or tomorrow.

- As we answer the Lord, He'll grow us in more areas than just the part we answer.
 - Ex: We go talk to someone about the Lord...then that will drive us into God's Word to get answer for them.
- Vs 18-19
 - Rechabites faith was tested, & they passed.
 - Their reward: to have godly descendants forever.....wow!!!
 - This proves III John 4

Chapter 36

- Vs 1-2 – Jeremiah's prophecies from 627-605BC.
 - The 1st Babylonian invasion will happen this year.
- Vs 3
 - Is there one that you wouldn't give the gospel of hope to b/c you think they won't turn?
 - Are you subconsciously bias against someone or a group of people? Challenge yourself.

- “It may be that [they] will hear all the evil which [the Lord] purposes to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way and that [the Lord] may forgive their iniquity and their sin.”
- Opposite – Is there one that you wouldn’t receive the gospel or teaching from b/c you think they couldn’t possible teach anything from the Lord?
 - Episcopal pastor – Taught me about prayer in the Deid.
- Vs 4-9
 - Jeremiah took about a year to write out all these prophecies.
 - Be patient when the Lord has you doing prep work or behind-the-scenes work?
 - Patience in preparing was so the Lord could present it at the best time for the people to hear and receive it.
 - Carman song – “The destination is there”

- “*God wouldn’t put it in your spirit, if it wasn’t going nowhere. So set your sights on the promises, the destination is there.*”
- Vs 10-14 – Opportunities to be used of the Lord.
 - Some say, “I don’t really have chances to be used of the Lord like you do.”
 - Just like in this story, go do something for the Lord and it will lead to more and more chances.
 - Baruch read the book, and then got invited to go to the house of the scoffers.
 - Make spiritual words a part of your normal vocabulary and watch the extra opportunities open up for you.
- Vs 15-25
 - **The 3rd group that God may want to speak to you thru is people who oppose you.**
 - Do you get defensive or ask God if they’re right?
 - Vs 25 – Would I stand up like these 3 did?

- I fear that the average Christian in America, would just watch this happen and then “share a prayer request” at church next Sunday.
- Vs 26
 - How many times has the Lord done this for us and we didn’t even know it?
 - I can think of a few times that I witnessed to someone, that they didn’t receive the message and I thought, “boy, I hope I don’t ever see them in a dark alley.”
- Vs 27-32
 - There’s been plenty of rotten kings in Judah but this is the 1st time that God says, “You will not have any children to take the throne after you.”
 - This happened in Israel a lot.
 - Re-wrote the scroll
 - The modern church today wouldn’t do this.

- They said, “that didn’t work, let’s try doing a drama play and cool music in front of the kind, yeah, let’s see if that works.
- True faith in God has always been a Word based, Word driven religion.
 - It’s the Word of God that leads to changed beliefs and then changed thoughts and then changed feelings and then changed actions.

Conclusion

- In conclusion, are we open to hearing and receiving God’s Word from a person that is really different than us?
- Let’s start giving and receiving God’s Word to and from each other more often.
 - Even if it’s just a little word here or there.