

ISAIAH: JUDGMENT AND HOPE

23. Isaiah 29

Jerusalem Humbled and Rebuked

QUESTIONS from the pastors followed by DAVE GUZIK on how much the chapter deals with spiritual blindness:

Pastor Travis

God has a way of exposing the real you within each of us, and one He does that is through adversity. How have you seen this to be true within your family?

What are the dangers of our worship becoming routine?

Are there warning signs that our personal worship can become routine rather than life-changing, and if so, what are those warning signs?

How would you gauge your personal worship today? (weak, strong, bored, routine, exciting, growing)

Pastor John

Tonight, Richard told us that there are three YOUs..." There's the you YOU think you are. There's the you OTHERS think you are. There's the You GOD KNOWS you to be!" It's usually the people closest to us that are the first to see discrepancies between these opinions.

Are you willing to ask your spouse or a close and mature friend if they see a difference? Are you willing to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any discrepancy?

Sleeping is easy...drifting is what happens without resistance and intentional effort to combat it. What areas are you prone to take the easy way? In what areas are you not fighting the good fight? What thought patterns are you not resisting?

We only have so much fight in us...what is that you're most interested in and intentional with? Does it include your spiritual worship? What do you enjoy fighting and protecting and preserving most?

Pastor Chris

1. In v.1, The Lord indicated that Israel's worship was empty, it had become routine. Can that be said of you? In what way has worship become routine for you instead of a life changing reality?
2. The Israelites were trusting that Egypt would rescue them from their oppressors. Who or what are you trusting in? Are you declaring your independence from God and putting your trust in created things to save you?
3. Because of their spiritual negligence, God sent to Israel a spirit of deep sleep, closing the eyes of the prophets and covering the heads of the seers. In essence, He made them both blind and drunk; unable to see and incapable of properly responding to Him. Do you personally feel you are having difficulty hearing from the Lord? Is there a lethargy in regard to the things of the Spirit? Does the Word of God seem sealed to you? It could be a season of dryness, but could there be a deeper cause? Could negligence be the root of your experience? If so, in what ways have you been negligent?
4. In vs. 13,14 – God declares that Israel draws near to Him with their lips, but their hearts are far from Him. God doesn't move away from His people – if you are feeling distance, in what ways have you moved away from Him? What do you need to do to get back to Him?
5. In v.15 God indicts Israel for trying to hide from Him what is really in their hearts. The problem is that God sees everything, we are not fooling God but ourselves in our effort to hide. If God were to look into your heart, would He see things that you are keeping back from Him—things that you are trying to protect or hide from Him? What are they and Why?
6. Based upon our study in Isaiah 29, what can you do this week to recalibrate your heart toward God and ensure that what God says about Israel is not said about you?

Pastor Justin

We learned tonight that pride makes us susceptible to many dangers spiritually, morally and physically. Before we can deal with our pride we must see where it

comes from. What is the source of your pride?

Verse 8 describes a hungry and thirsty man that is “not satisfied” and “not quenched”. What are things that falsely promise fulfillment, but don’t?

We saw YHWH as our Redeemer when Isaiah mentions Abraham’s life (v.22) and freeing Jacob of shame (v.23). What has YHWH redeemed you from?

DAVE GUZIK on how much the chapter deals with spiritual blindness:

- Spiritual blindness is caused by pride.
- Spiritual blindness will bring us low.
- Spiritual blindness leads to spiritual drunkenness.
- Spiritual blindness leads to spiritual sleep.
- Spiritual blindness leads to spiritual illiteracy.
- Spiritual blindness causes hypocrisy.
- Spiritual blindness makes men believe God cannot know what they think or see what they do.
- Spiritual blindness makes men deny God as Creator.
- Spiritual blindness is cured through humility.
- Spiritual blindness can only be healed through the Lord’s restoration.