

A LEAKY WELL OR A FLOWING RIVER?

Jeremiah 2:12-13

Introduction: No doubt water is a vital necessity to our survival and throughout history mankind has been found where there has been a reliable source of water. When the water dried up, the people moved on to find another source and resettled there. God compares man's attitude toward Him as man's search for water. God is always present and available but man seems to ignore Him and turns to the world for his/her needs, which are but temporary and insufficient. Thus the comparison of which choice man makes: to have a leaky cistern/well or a flowing river for his need.

I. GOD SAYS MAN HAS COMMITTED EVIL

1. Judah (God's very own people) had forsaken Him (the living river).
2. They looked for happiness in the world (cistern) rather than in God.
 - What is there in the world that has not come from God? Look around!
3. Just what does God require anyhow?
 - To regard Him as the ONLY source of happiness, filling one's needs.
 - To let Him be part of one's total life.
 - To trust Him for ALL one's needs.
 - To be like He wants His Children to be.
4. How impressed is man about God's abilities?
 - God has been forsaken completely.
 - God's Word has been disregarded.
 - God has been pushed out of the minds of people.
5. What does mankind prefer to God? (Broken Cisterns/Leaky Wells)
 - People want to be satisfied completely in all ways.
 - People want to have wealth and honor.
 - People have turned to theories of science and philosophies.
 - IF God is first, then these can be good for mankind, IF God is the one who provides them.
 - The wrong, the evil is in letting these things become one's life, letting these things draw one away from God, letting these things take God's place.
6. When all is said and done, do these things actually/really satisfy people?
 - Who has ever found solid, permanent satisfaction in the things of the world?
 - Who has lived a long life and did not have to agree with Solomon that "all is vanity?"
 - What happens when one finally wakes up from his/her dreams?
 - Suppose one gains the world's prizes of wealth, honor, etc., is there any lasting peace?
 - Has science and philosophy brought everything mankind needs?
 - Where is the paradise the world promises?
 - Do people not dig one leaky well/cistern after another, none lasting very long?

II. WHAT DOES MANKIND SAY ABOUT HIS EVIL?

1. Judah (God's own people) left God, therefore man's evil is extremely wicked.
 - Consider man's abilities over the rest of the creation
 - Is it nothing?
 - Is it nothing that man provokes God to jealousy by man's pursuit of evil?
 - Is it nothing that man despises God's redeeming love, the Cross, etc.
 - What if our children treated us as we treat God? How would you react? So, what about God?
2. Man's evil is extremely foolish.
 - Judah left God and made alliances with other nations who were Godless people.
 - What if 1/2 of our labor spent in pursuing the things of the world was spent for God?
 - What if only 1 day of the week (Sunday) were actually spent in prayer and Bible study?
 - What about television time? Telephone time? Computer time? Sports time? Shopping time?
 - Think about a person living beside a bubbling spring, clear, pure, cool water, but that person insisted on digging a well. The well dried up and that person died of thirst. Foolish?
3. Man's evil has terrible consequences.
 - Judah (God's own people) were exiled, went into slavery.
 - People want to keep their evil out of the sight and hearing of others but don't care whether God knows or not.
 - Can hiding the eyes and ears of the world keep harm and hurt from happening?
 - How can a person remain evil when he/she sees the happiness in those who are saved?
 - Remember the Philippian jailer? He wanted what Paul and Silas had.
 - Remember the 3,000 who were saved after hearing the truth about Jesus?
 - People without God, without the Lord Jesus Christ go to hell.
 - Saved people don't need to be rewarded, they have eternal life.

CONCLUSION:

1. If God were hard on people, perhaps there might be cause to be hesitant to turn to Him.
 - Who ever sought God that did not find Him?
 - Who ever called on Him that He did not answer?
2. Is being a Christian a cause to be sad?
3. Does not being a Christian bring peace and blessings from God?
4. Return to the flowing river, God, and stop digging leaky wells/cisterns in the world.