

IT'S NOT GOD'S FAULT

Isaiah 1:11-20

Introduction: Ever wonder what's wrong with our country? Ever wonder why it seems as if God has withdrawn from America? What about our own individual lives? So many see no visible movement of God in their lives anymore. Where is God? What's the matter with Him, He's supposed to love and care for His Children isn't He? Or perhaps is it possible that the reason for the absence of God is because of our country's leaving Him and His ways and just perhaps we have reverted back to loving our sins again? Whatever the reason for God's absence in our country and in our individual lives, it's not God's fault.

I. SIN MUST BE PUT AWAY, DENOUNCED!

1. Fellowship with God cannot exist if there is continuation in sin.
 - Does our country or do we expect God to ignore our sinning?
 - If there is a serious injury, is a pain deadening shot all that one needs? Or is there a need for more serious treatment?
 - What kind of life would it be for a Child of God if sin went unchecked?
 - What kind of nation is it who has left almighty God who founded it for His cause?
 - Where is God's holiness? Where is God's justice?
 - Can a person expect to live with sin and walk with God at the same time?
 - Can we expect God to allow us as a nation and as individuals to continue our sinfulness and disobedience and also give us a forgiving "kiss on the cheek" at the same time?
2. Peace will NEVER come.
 - It is ridiculous to ever think of having peace with God if we continue to do that which is so grievous to God.
 - To do that which provokes God will never allow fellowship with Him.
 - Doing that which breaks God's heart will never bring His blessings.
3. What damage has sin already done to America and to us as individuals?
 - Where is real happiness? How can disobedience bring happiness with God?
 - Where is God's peace? Where is God's assurance?
 - Where is satisfaction? Where are answered dreams?
 - Is not America like the prodigal son Jesus spoke of? Are not we, as well, prodigal children? What sin has led you away from God?
4. No act of works on our part can bring us back to God.
 - Only repentance and forsaking sin can bring back fellowship with God.
 - Sin in a life alienates one or a nation from God.
 - After a time of worship, do we go out to live a holy life or do we go back to our sinful ways?
 - What kind of life does God demand? A life filled with sin?
 - What exactly do we pray for? We ask God to bless us and want Him to condone our continued sinfulness.
 - "Oh God, I want eternal life, peace and fellowship with You, but let me keep my sins..."

II. WE MUST PURIFY OUR HEARTS AS A NATION AND AS INDIVIDUALS

- What kind of person asks God to walk with him/her while holding on to his/her sins?
- What kind of Father expects His Children to live in faith?
- Can a person live as he/she wishes and still fellowship with God?
- People expect God to allow them into heaven but also want to hold on to their sins at the same time.
- *vv 16, 17* are a portrait of a Christian. Who would like to be like this? God can make every Child of His like this, but one's life must be changed and sin renounced.

III. TO REMAIN UNWILLING TO LEAVE SIN PUTS THE BLAME ON MAN

- God is willing and able to forgive and is prepared and ready to cleanse and to pardon right now.
- If our country and we as individuals are not at peace with God, IT IS NOT GOD'S FAULT!

IV. GOD IS RIGHT TO DEMAND OBEDIENCE

- Everyone wants to be saved from Hell.
- Everyone wants to go to Heaven.
- However, to give up one's sins in order to miss Hell and go to Heaven is another thing.
- Nobody wants to obey God's laws.

CONCLUSION:

1. IF we are willing, God will! IF we obey, God can!
2. One's love for his/her sins keeps him/her away from God.
3. God stands ready, eager and able to save our nation and to bring us back to Him.
4. How much do YOU want God in your life? How much have you already given to Him?