

God's Description Of A Man #1

Introduction. In Jeremiah 5, God asks Jeremiah to find a man for Him. This is God's description of a man, not man's description of man. Man looks at man a lot differently than does God (1 Samuel 16:7; 2 Corinthians 10:18).

Before we get too deep into this, I want to make it plain that I am not neglecting the women in our assembly today. Galatians 3:28 shows that we are all equal and we are all one in Christ. Therefore, what God seeks in a man, He seeks in a woman.

The characteristics of the men that Jeremiah found in chapter 5 are the antithesis of what God was looking for in a man. So we will "reverse engineer" these qualities so that we will know what pleases God.

I. He Is A Doer Of Righteousness (v. 1)

- A. The first attribute about this "man" is that he is to be one who "executeth judgment." This was the quality found in Abraham's children (Genesis 18:19).
- B. Executing judgment necessitates knowing what judgment is.
 - 1. Psalm 119 has a great deal to say about the judgments of God (Psalm 119:7, 13, 20, 30, 39, 43, 52, 62, 66, 75, 84, 102, 106, 108, 120, 121, 137, 149, 156, 160, 164, 175).
 - 2. These verses, all 22 of them, describe the attitude, ambition, and action of one who knew the judgments (ordinances, statutes, precepts, commandments, law, etc.) of God. Because of this, they act or do justly.
- C. To "execute judgment" did not mean to judge as it is right in your own eyes, but to discern everything as it is taught by the Lord (Philippians 1:9-11). God's children uphold the law of Christ ("contend earnestly," Jude 3), not their own opinions or ideas.
- D. Finally, righteousness is not just facts that are known — it is a way of living (Acts 10:35; 24:25). Sometimes the fulfilling of this responsibility will not be popular.

II. He Is Diligent Toward The Truth (v. 1)

- A. A second characteristic mentioned is that the "man" must be one who "seeketh the truth."
 - 1. Just because one might know how to execute judgment does not mean that he knows everything.
 - a) He is to be a diligent student of truth (1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 2:25).
 - b) He knows that God's mercy and truth are the answer for sin (Proverbs 16:6; 1 Peter 1:22).
 - c) He knows that the New Testament church is the "pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15).
 - d) He knows that love rejoices in truth (1 Corinthians 13:6).
 - e) He knows that without the love of the truth one cannot be saved (2 Thessalonians 2:10).
- B. The Hebrew word translated as "truth" means in its literal sense "to prop, stay, sustain, or support."
 - 1. The truth gives firmness and stability.
 - 2. It is the truth applied to life that establishes a man in the faith.

- C. "Seek" magnifies the diligence that one is to have toward the truth.
 - 1. The idea behind "seek" can be seen in various examples where the same word is found (2 Kings 2:16-17; Ezekiel 34:6; Luke 15:4; Matthew 18:12).
 - 2. To be a "seeker" of truth also means "seeking" after God (Acts 17:27-28; Hebrews 11:6).

III. He Is Dependable In His Words (v. 2)

- A. What Jeremiah found among the people were lying lips.
 - 1. The words of the people could not be trusted, but the Law taught differently (Deuteronomy 6:13; 23:23; Numbers 30:2).
 - 2. When one used the name of the Lord as a part of a spoken promise, it was as binding as though it were in writing.
- B. Jesus said of those who were abusing the name of God, "Again, ye have heard that it hath been said ..." (Matthew 5:33-37). James says that our yes must mean yes and our no must mean no (James 5:12).
- C. The promises of God's people are a reflection on the Lord they serve.
 - 1. God is faithful to His word and so must His people be to their word.
 - 2. To the Christian, the keeping of his word should be a matter of honor and conscience, making a Christian the most trustworthy person on earth (Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:9; cp. Ruth 3:13-18).

IV. He Is Disciplined (v. 3)

- A. The Lord sought to correct the wicked city as a father would his children, but they would not accept divine discipline (Proverbs 3:11-12; 1 Corinthians 11:32; Hebrews 12:7-11; Revelation 3:19).
- B. God's discipline is always in agreement with His word (Psalm 94:12; 2 Timothy 3:16). It is always motivated by love to the eternal salvation of the soul.

V. He Is Conscious Of Danger (vv. 4-6, 15-17)

- A. Jeremiah spoke of the dangers that would face the nation because of their sins.
 - 1. The man whom God desires is the one who, when he heard the words spoken by Jeremiah, would heed the warning (Jonah 3:4-10).
 - 2. Jesus refers to the people of Nineveh as an example of repentance (Matthew 12:41). They were danger conscious.
- B. There are many dangers in the New Testament that had better be considered.
 - 1. Passages which begin with certain words such as "take heed" (56x, 1 Corinthians 10:12; Hebrews 3:12) or "beware" (16x, Luke 12:15; 2 Peter 3:17) are danger conscious signs to the Christian.
 - 2. Everyone has freewill as a foundational part of the human condition. You are free to chose, and if you ignore the warnings behind such passages, then you will be like those in Jeremiah's day.

Conclusion. God has very intensive, specific desires for mankind. If Adam and Eve had not sinned, I suppose these characteristics would be in all of us. But as it is now, we have to work at this and make ourselves into this kind of man. If you need to press on to perfection, then do it through obedience to the gospel or restoration to God.