

## God's Description Of A Man #2

**Introduction.** Earlier, we looked at the first five qualities that God was looking for in man: one who does righteousness (v. 1), is diligent toward the truth (v. 1), dependable in his words (v. 2), disciplined (v. 3), and conscious of danger (vv. 4-6, 15-17).

In Jeremiah 5, God asks Jeremiah to find for Him a man. Man looks at man a lot differently than does God, and we are interested in God's description of a man, not man's description of man.

Before continuing the specific characteristics mentioned in Jeremiah 5, it is interesting to note the differences in the Hebrew words which are translated "man." The English word "man" is used about 1,800 times in the Old Testament and has the following words: 1) "Adam" (red, ruddy, earthly — reflecting man's earthly origin); 2) "Enosh" (frail, feeble, mortal — reflecting man's temporary existence on earth); 3) "Nephesh" (that which breathes — reflecting man as a breathing being); 4) "Gibbor" (physical strength and courage — showing that man has some power given to him by God); and, 5) "Ish" (intelligent and of noble character — reflecting the high quality of manhood). This is the word for man found in Jeremiah 5:1. Let's finish our study by examining five more qualities that God was looking for in a man.

### ***I. He Is Dedicated To Moral Purity (vv. 9-8)***

- A. The abandonment of authorized worship produced moral decadence. God's man would be appalled at such a sight, for when man forsakes God, he forsakes the moral standard of life. His moral standard becomes what is popular or what he believes is right (Proverbs 16:25; cp. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15).
- B. Today's society certainly cannot and must not be looked to for moral guidance or a standard of morality. It is constantly shifting and changing, and it is astonishing to see how low the morals of our country have sunk.
- C. The battle against immorality is a battle for the minds of men. One does not change immoral practices without first changing the thinking of people (Matthew 15:17-19; cp. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5).
- D. The man whom God seeks is one, after being baptized into Christ, has cast the old man aside and has assumed a whole new approach to life (John 17:14; Romans 6:6; 12:1-2; Galatians 6:14; Ephesians 4:21-24).

### ***II. He Delights In God's People (v. 12)***

- A. The Lord revealed the attitude that the people have toward God's prophets when He said, "They have lied about the Lord ..."
- B. A person who does righteousness, is diligent toward the truth, dependable in his words, disciplined, conscious of danger, and dedicated to moral purity would have high regard for one who stood for the same. He would be encouraged and edified by such dedicated servants (Psalm 16:1-3; 2 Peter 1:1).
  - 1. God's people are not just those who love God as the scriptures direct, but they love their brethren also (John 13:35; 1 John 4:11-12, 20-21).
  - 2. When thinking of delighting in God's people, one remembers Elisha and the Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4:9-10).

- C. When one truly delights in God's people, then worshiping with the saints will be a blessing and not a burden.

### **III. He Is Dependent On The Lord (v. 22, 24)**

- A. Of all the characteristics that could be mentioned in Jeremiah 5, this one stands out as perhaps the most important.
  - 1. The people of the nation had put their trust in the walls that surrounded the cities for their protection.
  - 2. They did not have the heart of David (Psalm 18:2), for materialism had become their substitute for God. They were living by sight rather than faith (2 Corinthians 5:7). As long as the world stands, materialism will be a foe of the people of God.
- B. There are many different attitudes and objects that the scriptures teach that one should not place his confidence in: weapons (Psalm 44:6), riches (Proverbs 11:28), heart (Proverbs 28:26), idols (Isaiah 42:17), wickedness (Isaiah 47:10), land (Jeremiah 12:5), falsehood (Jeremiah 13:25), and works (Jeremiah 48:7).
- C. The Lord is not only the source of man's protection, but He is the source of man's provision (Luke 12:6-7). These blessings are based on the goodness of God (Psalm 145:7-10).

### **IV. He Is A Declarer Of God's Answers (v. 20)**

- A. The "man" whom God approves is one who knows the importance of declaring the truth, not his own opinions or ideas. In Jeremiah 5:19, the people would ask Jeremiah a question and he was to give God's word for an answer.
- B. Teaching the world the truth is the primary work of God's people, so let's learn how to declare God's answers (1 Peter 3:15).
  - 1. "Apologetics" are reasoned arguments or writings in justification of something, typically a theory or religious doctrine.
  - 2. The apostles regularly argued or reasoned about Christ (Acts 2:22-36; 9:26-30; 13:29-38; 14:15-17; 17:22-31; 18:4, 19; 19:8-10; 28:23-31).

### **V. He Is A Defender Of The Less Fortunate (vs. 28)**

- A. Jeremiah found a people who were indifferent toward the needs of the destitute. Idolatry had poisoned the people's heart to righteous living, so numerous social ills existed in Judah.
- B. The way that one treats the poor and helpless is an index of the real person.
  - 1. The virtuous woman reached forth her hands to the needy (Proverbs 31:20).
  - 2. Job had delivered the poor (Job 29:11-13).
  - 3. Helping the poor and helpless is pure religion (James 1:27).

**Conclusion.** The Lord would "visit" the people because of all these sins. The prophets prophesied falsely and the priests rule on their own authority, and the people loved it. However, there would one day be a reckoning (vv. 29-31). Are you the kind of man God seeks to serve Him? If not, then correction is due. Make it right today.