

GOD TRIES EMOTIONS, JEREMIAH 11:20,21

Let us go to the Word of God today. Our thought for the day will be found in Jeremiah, the eleventh chapter, verses twenty and twenty-one.

But, O LORD of hosts, that judgest righteously, that triest the reins and the heart, let me see thy vengeance on them: for unto thee have I revealed my cause. Therefore thus saith the LORD of the men of Anathoth, that seek thy life, saying, Prophesy not in the name of the LORD, that thou die not by our hand: (Jeremiah 11:20,21).

We find that Jeremiah, the Prophet, had taken his cause to the LORD. What a beautiful thing to have confidence in God and to know that He of a surety does try the hearts of people, both the wicked and the righteous. And if we know that, then we do not have to take on a root of bitterness over things that we see people do that is wrong and wicked because we do not help them. We do not change them. We only hinder and hurt ourselves.

But if we have a good opinion of God that He is the Head over all things, that He is omniscient, that He knows all things, that He is omnipotent, that He has power over all things, that He is omnipresent, and His Presence is everywhere, and that He does all things well, then we will be like Jeremiah and come to the LORD, beloved. When our enemies assail us and when persecution is raging and when the fires of tribulation are burning round about us, we will take our cause to the LORD. Then we will say to the LORD, "LORD, look what they are saying and what they are doing to me. LORD, speak to me. Show me what You would have me to learn." So this did Jeremiah because the people had threatened him and said, "Do not prophesy anymore in the Name of the LORD because if you do, we are going to kill you."

Let us see what Jeremiah did. He did not run away from the ministry that God had called him to. He did not backslide. He did not get a mean attitude and spirit against God. He did not say, "Now, God, look, I have been preaching. I have been faithful. I have been true. And you have not

exalted me. On the contrary You are letting these men speak evil against me. They are even threatening to take my life.” No, He did not say any of these things. He merely went and presented his cause before the LORD. God, what are you going to do about it? Beloved, God did do something about it. Jeremiah lived on long after his persecutors had been dealt with by God and again we find Jeremiah crying out in the seventeenth chapter concerning God’s trying the hearts of people.

In Jeremiah 17:9,10,11, He said:

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9).

Beloved, we do not know our own heart. We do not know anyone else’s heart. But, beloved, God has not asked you to examine anyone else’s heart. He has asked you to examine your own heart. And He said:

I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins [that is the emotions], even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool (Jeremiah 17:9-11).

How much better to serve God and get the eternal riches of God. How much better to surrender to God in the midst of our tests and trials that God places us in, beloved, and gain the eternal divine riches of His Word, to gain the divine gold and silver of the Word of God, that which will never perish, that which will never pass away. God said, “Though heaven and earth pass away, my Word shall never pass away.” When we lay hold of the Word of God, beloved, it is the greatest thing in all the world. God said He had magnified His Word even above His Name.

So when we lay hold of the Word, we will not be like a partridge that is setting upon eggs and then someone comes along and frightens it, and it jumps off and runs off and leaves the eggs to the thief, to the robber, and to the wild beast, and so on. So, we are just like a little wild bird when

we try to amass riches of this world apart from God. When God begins to send trials and tribulations and begins to blow upon us with the breath of His wrath then we are soon scared away and separated from the riches of this world. But when we lay hold of the Word of God in the midst of the tests and trials that God sends our way, we are laying hold of that which is eternal, that which no man can take away from us.

Paul said in Romans there,

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:34,38-39).

So, beloved, God does try our hearts, He does try our emotions to see if they are real. When we say, “Yes, LORD, I love You. I take You as my personal Saviour. I want to follow You. I want to go on.” God will try the emotions, beloved, of our words, and He will put us in trials and tribulations and He will test us. He Himself will test us in order to show us, beloved, the reality that is in our heart, if it be there; and likewise, the error and fallacy of our deceitful words if the Truth is not there. So it is not that God does not already know, He knows but He tries us that He might teach us that He might manifest to us the condition of our heart, if our emotions are real when we say, “God, I love You. I want to serve You. I want to give my life to You.” Then, beloved, that will be manifested all the more when we go through tests and trials.

Recently, I was speaking to a young lady concerning her inconsistency in serving the LORD, and I said, “Why do you do this? Why are you always backing up from the LORD?” So her excuse was, “Well, the first time that I backslid, I saw so many wrongs and evils with other people that I just gave up and quit.” I said, “Excuse me, honey, but that is a copout.” I said, “If you really love Jesus Christ, what other people have nothing to do with the real emotion, a real love that is

in your heart and in your will for Jesus Christ. When that is there, I said, “You will never leave Him because that emotion, that rein is strong in your heart and will constrain you and pull you after Jesus Christ in the most adverse circumstances, in the midst of the greatest obstacles.” I told her, “I likewise, have passed through similar circumstances.” Not because I am any great one, but beloved, I do have a real love in my heart for Jesus Christ that was born there the day I knelt beside my bed and gave my heart to Jesus Christ and was transported and translated out of the darkness of Satan’s kingdom and into the Kingdom of the Light of Jesus Christ. And I have never wanted to leave Him. That love constrained me and has constrained me and will constrain me to follow Him. So, beloved, let Him examine the emotions of your heart today, the reins of your heart, that you might know. He already knows, but He wants you to know.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we thank You today for Jesus Christ Who loved us and gave Himself for us and we thank You for this great divine Love that You have generated in our hearts through Jesus Christ. Bless, we pray, in radio land today. Cause hearts to turn to you. Cause hearts to be constrained by thy divine Love and draw them in the midst of all their circumstances and trials and tribulations. Draw souls unto Thee, this day, because we pray in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen. q