Scholars are Needed

A Sermon for Arkadelphia on May 31, 2014

Jeremiah 2:11 Has a nation changed its gods, Which are not gods? But My people have changed their Glory For what does not profit. 12 Be astonished, O heavens, at this, And be horribly afraid; Be very desolate," says the LORD. 13 "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns — broken cisterns that can hold no water.

**Key Idea: God is a jealous God. He does not accept our confidence in unreliable sources. He classes it with idolatry. More than this, He expects us to depend more practically on him every day.**

Scholars are needed

 This I confess

(Even if some

 Have made a big mess)

Studious persons

 With years in the books

Have beauteous wisdom

 Whatever their looks

I want an expert

 Experienced too

To operate lasers

 On one eye or two

Play for our wedding

 Pilot the jet

Teach chemistry

 (though students forget)

What I am saying

 To balance my thoughts

Scholars are precious

 I love them a lot

I aim to become one

 To study and teach

To drink at the fountain

 Of knowledge…then preach

But scholars who study

 The sayings of men

Make the waters muddy

 By using their pen

By mixing traditions

 Wishes and guesses

Much-confirmed rumors

 (That’s how they make messes)

With the Word of God

 Pure and True

That’s not what a scholar of truth

 Ought to do

So, yes, we need scholars

 Like Andrews and Bates

James White and others

 Who studied first rate

Young men we need you

 To study with power

To teach not with wisdom

 Of men at this hour!

But teach with the Spirit

 Enforcing the Word

Such scholars are useful

 Wherever they’re heard

Theologians aren’t needed

 To concoct more stuff

Of saying of men

 We’ve had quite enough

But if they would study

 As children the Word

They’d be the scholars

 We need….

We need the scholars

They’d be….

Scholars are needed

 You see

We Trust We Should Trust

Our goodness God’s mercy

Our riches God’s resources

Doctors God’s wisdom and power

Military and police God’s deliverance

Professors God’s Words

Why don’t nations change their gods? They identify with their gods and depend on them.

Jeremiah 2:11 Has a nation changed its gods, Which are not gods? But My people have changed their Glory For what does not profit. 12 Be astonished, O heavens, at this, And be horribly afraid; Be very desolate," says the LORD. 13 "For My people have committed **two evils**: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns — broken cisterns that can hold no water.

Goodness

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and **all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags**; …

Zechariah 3:4 … **Take away the filthy garments from him**. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.

Riches

Job 31:24 If I have made gold my hope, Or said to fine gold, ‘You are my confidence’; 25 If I have rejoiced because my wealth was great, And because my hand had gained much;

Doctors

2 Chronicles 16:12 And Asa …yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians.

Military

Is 31:1 Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, And rely on horses, Who trust in chariots because they are many, And in horsemen because they are very strong, But who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, Nor seek the LORD!

Professors

1 Corinthians 1:20 **Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?**

Luke 20:45 in the audience of all the people he said to his disciples 46 Beware of the scribes, … the same shall receive greater damnation.

**Digging cisterns is hard work**! And in the end, they can leak! A fountain is better than a cistern. Think about it. The fountain of truth…

Jeremiah 2:37 Indeed you will go forth from him With your hands on your head; **For the LORD has rejected your trusted allies [confidences]**, And you will not prosper by them.

Do Brides Forget their Dresses? Are Fiancés Interested in Each Other?

Jeremiah 2:31 "O generation, see the word of the LORD! …Why do My people say, ‘We are lords; We will come no more to You’? 32 **Can a virgin forget her ornaments**, Or a bride her attire? Yet My people have forgotten Me days without number.

Jeremiah 2:2 "Go and cry in the hearing of Jerusalem, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD: "I remember you, The kindness of your youth, The love of your betrothal, When you went after Me in the wilderness, In a land not sown. 3 Israel was holiness to the LORD, The firstfruits of His increase. All that devour him will offend; Disaster will come upon them," says the LORD.’"

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Proverbs 1:17 Surely, in vain the net is spread In the sight of any bird; 18 But they lie in wait for their own blood, ….: **22 "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity?** For scorners delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge. 23 Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.

Job 28:18 No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom is above rubies. [compare to: Pr 3:15; 8:11; Pr 20:115]

*But What do you Scrutinize?*1 Corinthians 2:2 For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching was not with [plausible] words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: 5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

OTHER DATA

1 Corinthians 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. **14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him**: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Jeremiah 2:19 Your own wickedness will correct you, And your backslidings will rebuke you. Know therefore and see that it is an evil and bitter thing That you have forsaken the LORD your God, **And the fear of Me is not in you**," Says the Lord GOD of hosts. 20 "For of old I have broken your yoke and burst your bonds; And **you said, ‘I will not transgress**,’ When on every high hill and under every green tree You lay down, playing the harlot. 21 Yet I had planted you a noble vine, a seed of highest quality. How then have you turned before Me Into the degenerate plant of an alien vine?

Jeremiah 2:36 Why do you gad about so much to change your way? Also **you shall be ashamed of Egypt as you were ashamed of Assyria.**