

Jeremiah 22

Read Jeremiah 22:1-5: God tells Jeremiah to go down to the Kings house to call him out into accountability. Even kings and presidents are under authority. That is why they are called public servants.

The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. -For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goes; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. -When Jesus heard it, he marveled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say to you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. (Matthew 8:8-10)

Jeremiah risked his life by confronting the king. John the Baptist had the same boldness to confront public leadership.

For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife. -Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not: -For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly. (Matthew 6:18-20)

Ironically the commands from God to the king were ultimately for the wellbeing of the Jews. Executing judgment and righteousness and protection of the weak were the very things the Jews would fall prey to from the Babylonians. There is no such thing as karma; but the Bible does tell us that we will reap what we sow.

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap. -For he that sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that sows to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. (Galatians 6:7-8)

People fantasize about climbing the social or economic ladders.

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. (Hebrews 13:5)

-A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked. (Psalm 37:16)

Solomon said that the happy life is the life that is satisfied with what you have.

-Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith. -Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith. (Proverbs 15:16-17)

Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife. (Proverbs 17:1)

Many of us seek greater power and influence; without weighing the added responsibility.

And he spoke a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: -And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to store my fruits? -And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I store all my fruits and my goods. -And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. -But God said to him, you fool, this night your soul shall be required of you: then whose shall those things be, which you have provided? Luke 12:16-20)

-And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. -But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For to whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more. (Luke 12:47-48)

Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. (James 3:1)

Sin is not only misdeeds. It is also missed deeds. There are sins of commission (acts of sin). Leadership requires a more-strict accountability. We cannot ignore the needs of others. This chapter is more about sins of omission (not making an effort and doing extend yourself and do what is right).

-In like manner shalt you do with his ass; and so shall you do with his clothing; and with all lost thing of your brother's, which he has lost, and you have found, shall you do likewise: you may not hide yourself. You shall not see your brother's ass or his ox fall down by the way, and hide yourself from them: you shall surely help him to lift them up again. (Deuteronomy 22:3-4)

It is interesting that speaking God's word was Jeremiah's freedom (when it could have caused his death). He was bound and beaten previously. Instead of weighing his risks and moderating his comments; Jeremiah remained bold. Now he is standing before the king as a free man with special privileges.

Read Jeremiah 22:4-9: We start the day at a fork in the road each day. Individual decisions affect a nation. If we honor God with our personal and national resources we will receive more. If we do not, they will be taken away as a disobedience lesson to onlookers. Everyone is a walking billboard. Perhaps your billboard reads: "He reaches out when he is in trouble...but shrinks back when things even out"...or "Here stands a man who is doing very little to grow in the LORD", or "Here stands a man who exemplifies God's extreme grace".

Read Jeremiah 22:10-12: It takes a while to kick in; but changes come in rapid succession. Once a person permanently-refuses to turn to God you have to let the harsh realities set in. We are to pray for the lost. Some people flat out refuse to bow to the LORD. We do not know who will be saved and who won't repent on their death bed. Josiah led great reforms; but they did not stick. Shallum the third son of Josiah was a king mentioned here. Jehoahaz is his other name. He succeeded his father only for three months. Interestingly

his father was a great reformer-king. Shallum was taken away in captivity; to never return.

Read Jeremiah 22:13-30: Our means are as important as our ends. God is criticizing how mansions are being built from immoral methods. Laborers are not getting paid, the wealthy are living in opulent luxury, The poor and oppressed were shown no mercy or consideration. Jehoiakim (also called Johiachim, Eliakim) ruled for ten years; and was another son of Josiah who ruled. Eliakim was put in place as a vassal king by Pharaoh (Necho II). He was predicted to have the burial of an ass. Drug across the ground; and piled up for maggots in the elements.