Today's Rechabites

Tony Mauck · Jeremiah 35

INTRODUCTION

- The situation for Judah is dire. The nation is imploding politically, and the spiritual condition of the people is even worse.
- Josiah comes along, the boy king in 2 Chronicles 34, and he did what was right in the sight of the Lord.
- Jeremiah, the prophet who would soon follow him, says that despite these reforms, Judah never returned to him with their whole heart.

1 The Rechabites Will Not Drink Wine

Jeremiah 35:1–19

- I set before the men of the house of the Rechabites pitchers full of wine and cups, and I said to them, Drink wine.
- But they said, We will not drink wine, for Jonadab, the son of Rechab, our father, commanded us, saying, You shall not drink wine, you or your sons, forever.
- But I have spoken to you again and again. Yet you have not listened to me.
- Indeed, the sons of Jonadab, the sons of Rechab, have observed the command of their father, which he commanded them, but this people have not listened to me.

2 Who Are These People?

1 Chronicles 2:55; 2 Kings 10; 1 Peter 2:11

- They were descendants of the Kenites.
- The reason why Jonadab would join Jehu in his obliteration of the house of Ahab is because he was opposed to idolatry.
- These pilgrims shunned the settled life for the simplicity of tents and flocks.
- As Christians, we need to see our lives as nomadic, as sojourners.

3 Commitment to a Mere Man Versus Judah's Commitment to God

Deuteronomy 4:5–9; Psalm 46:1; Deuteronomy 28:1–14

- Their morality far exceeded that of God's own people, the nation of Judah.
- They merely listened, heeded, and were faithful to the teaching of Jonadab. Again, for over 200 years. And he was a mere man.
- God is saying in Jeremiah chapter 35 that the spiritual treachery of Judah is downright shameful.
- Furthermore, Jonadab was deceased. And God is living.
- Their laws were stricter than God's. And yet they were observed while God's were not.

4 Today's Rechabites

Luke 16

- The issue was their overwhelming commitment to what they believed in, and the words that they listened to beyond a commitment to the real God of heaven.
- How many folks committed to error, that is, partial truth, little truth, or no truth at all, are more diligent, zealous, loyal, and persevering than sometimes the true people of God.
- I never would have believed and embraced your teaching. If I did not see in you an equivalent commitment to what I had given being a moonie.
- Without embracing the error that these people believe, we ought to learn a lesson about their dedication.

5 How Can We Be More Dedicated?

- We need to be more determined and diligent in our pursuit of thinking, character, and conduct in the likeness of Christ.
- It should produce in us a greater and growing appreciation for what we have.
- So often it is people that come from without who have a greater appreciation and dedication because they realize how valuable what they have found is.
- Because we've been doing this for so long, we find ourselves going through the motion.
- We can start taking all of this for granted and not realize how blessed spiritually we are in so many ways.

THE CHALLENGE

Will you be one of those people? Will you rekindle your zeal and enthusiasm for the Lord and for his worship and for his things that matter most in this world and in the world to come?

MY NOTES