

"FIND A MAN . . . THAT SEEKETH THE TRUTH"

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Jeremiah had a tough job. He prophesied during tough times. He described the people of his day, "They have refused to receive correction: They have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return . . . they are foolish; for they know not the way of the Lord, nor the judgment of their God" (Jer. 5:3-4). The fuller picture of their condition presented in chapter 5 included: 1) swearing falsely by the Lord, v. 2; 2) swearing by false gods, v. 7; 3) committing adultery, vv. 7-8; 4) belied the Lord by denying the prophecies of their peril, v. 12; 5) no fear of God, vv. 22, 24-25; 6) a revolting and rebellious heart, v. 23; 7) deceitful, v. 27; 8) overlooking the deeds of the wicked who ignored the needs of the fatherless and needy, v. 28; 9) loving false prophecy and favoritism, vv. 30-31. Jeremiah wrote, "A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?" (vv. 30-31).

God gave Jeremiah his orders: "Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it. And though they say, The Lord liveth; surely they swear falsely. O Lord, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return" (Jer. 5:1-3). It would not be easy to find a man in Jerusalem who sought the truth, for God told Jeremiah to "run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem." The prophecy of Jeremiah shows that no one could be found because the city was not pardoned; it was destroyed (Jer. 52).

God placed value on the person who sought the truth. Jeremiah emphasized that the Lord's eyes are upon the truth (Jer. 5:3). The times of Jeremiah in the sixth century BC are not that dissimilar to the present. The world of the twenty-first century matches or exceeds the wickedness of that of the ancient prophet. But, the eyes of the Lord are still upon the truth, and he continues to issue the promise of reward to those who seek the truth.

“What Is Truth?”

The embodiment of truth stood before Pilate when he asked this question, but he could not see it (John 18:37-38; 14:6).

“Thy Word Is Truth”

Jesus said, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17).
“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32).

Soul Purified by Truth

The apostle Peter wrote, “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently” (I Pet. 1:22).

Begotten by Truth

James said, “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures” (Jas. 1:18).

Grace in Truth

God’s grace is in his truth. Paul wrote, “Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth” (Col. 1:4-6).

Worship in Spirit and in Truth

Worship must be in accord with truth: “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24).

Judgment According to Truth

The judgment will take place according to the truth: “But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things” (Rom. 2:2).

Conclusion

God is looking today for the person who seeks the truth. Loving, dedicated souls like Jeremiah of old continue to “run...to and fro through the streets” seeking such a person.