

OBLATIONS AND OBEDIENCE

ISAIAH 1

Text: Isaiah 1:13, 19

Isaiah 1:13

Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting.

Isaiah 1:19

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

Introduction:

In Judah the increase of wealth and of military strength had produced a proud sense of security, the practice of idolatry and superstitions, drunkenness was common, a confusion of moral distinctions penetrated society, and justice was corrupt. This was the situation which confronted Isaiah.

1. CONDITION

A. Ritualistic not Righteous (vs 11, 15)

Isaiah 1:11

To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the Lord: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.

Isaiah 1:15

And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

B. Faithful in Offerings but Failed in Obedience

C. Devoted but Deceived (vs 3-6)

Isaiah 1:3-6

The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. [4] Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.

[5] Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. [6] From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

1. They were only going through the motions.

D. They performed but pandered.

1. Why do people come to church? (vs 12)

Isaiah 1:12

When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?

Our churches have hurt the world because we have not been what we should be. The reason is because God does not have the rightful place in our lives.

Many today give offerings and sacrifices trying or attempting to please God with a gift, but God wants our hearts and our obedience.

1 Samuel 15:22

And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

John 14:15

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

2. COUNSEL

A. Seek God's forgiveness (vs 16, 18)

Isaiah 1:16

Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

Isaiah 1:18

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

B. Put away evil doings.

James 4:17

Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

C. Learn to do well (vs 17)

Isaiah 1:17

Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

D. Serve rightly and with the right motive

1. The only way we can serve right is to be right with God.

2. The only way our motives can be right is to do all that we do as unto the Lord.

E. Be willing and obedient (vs 19)

Isaiah 1:19

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

Close:

The results are clear.

Isaiah 1:19-20

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: [20] But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Obey and eat the good of the Land. Rebel and be devoured, in other words to eat or be eaten. For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.