

Living the Rechabite Way 12-30-12

I. Jeremiah 35:1-19

- A. Background – reign of Jehoiakim
- B. God has the prophet bring Rechabites for comfort, which they refuse
 - 1. They have a history of zeal for God – II Kings 10:15-27 – their “father” Jehonadab
 - A. Here the Rechabites assisted Jehu in ending the reign of Ahab, and destroying the temple of Baal
- C. God has a point from this, we will look at 2 of them here

II. Obeying the command of a father

- A. God is making a point about obedience and oaths
 - 1. Israel has made an oath to God, but is not faithful to it
- B. God is a father to Israel; He has made known His love for them
 - 1. Providing them many opportunities to repent
 - 2. Israel despises God by not obeying Him
- C. God's most repeated frustration: You Do Not Listen!
 - 1. Jesus spoke to this issue in Matt 13:11-17

Matt 13:11 *He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 "For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. 13 "Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear; nor do they understand. 14 "And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; 15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.' 16 "But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; 17 "for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.*

III. The Rechabite Vows

- A. Abstain from Wine
 - 1. Why?

- a. It was not unclean then (or even now)
- b. It was part of the Levite promise after the death of Nadab and Abihu - Lev 10:9
 - (1) The idea was to see the difference between Holy and Common, as the sons of Aaron had not
 - (2) The priest could not stand before God with this in him
- c. It was part of the Nazarite (Those Separated) vow – Num 6:2-3
- d. It was commanded to be abstained from by Kings -

Pr 31:4 *It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Nor for princes intoxicating drink*

- 2. Who are we today? Priests, Kings, and Separated by God
- 3. The Loss of inhibitions
 - a. Caused by even the slightest of intoxicating chemicals (drugs included)
 - b. Destructive force – Noah,
- 4. Greater truth – failing to remember we are the Temple of God

1Co 6:19 *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

a. Alcohol, drugs (mentioned as witchcraft), sexual immorality,

B. Living in Tents

2Pe 1:13 *Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, 14 knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.*

1. Is this world our home?

Mt 6:19 *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

1Pe 1:4 *to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,*

2. If this world is temporary, how ought we to live?

2Pe 3:11 *Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;*