

Life's Ultimate Questions
Who is the Person of My Ultimate Trust?
Jeremiah 17:5-8

August 4, 2013

Dr. Steve Horn

Text Introduction: Again, this morning, our text comes from the Old Testament prophet, Jeremiah. The amazing thing about God's word is that it speaks to every generation. In its historical context, first from the lips of Jeremiah, this word had immediate impact and application on Israel. Still today, this word speaks to our generation. We are in a series of messages that we are calling "Life's Ultimate Questions." Today, we ask an intensely personal and uncomfortable question: "Who is the person of my ultimate trust?"

Text: ⁵ This is what the LORD says:

Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind,
who makes human flesh his strength
and turns his heart from the LORD.

⁶ He will be like a juniper in the Arabah;
he cannot see when good comes
but dwells in the parched places in the wilderness,
in a salt land where no one lives.

⁷ Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,
whose confidence indeed is the LORD.

⁸ He will be like a tree planted by water:
it sends its roots out toward a stream,
it doesn't fear when heat comes,
and its foliage remains green.
It will not worry in a year of drought
or cease producing fruit.

Introduction: A motto of our country is "In God We Trust." We all would have to confess this is not really true of America. The specific question before us this morning is whether we can truly make this our confession as individuals. It seems to bother us when we realize that our country doesn't trust in God, but the real question is whether we trust solely, completely in God. That's the essence of this text. Total Trust!

God demands our total trust.

The Demand for Unrivaled Trust—The demand for unrivaled trust is found in two very explicit ways in this text. The first signal is the emphatic and characteristic "This is what the Lord says." Older translations usually say, "Thus saith the LORD!" The second signal is the two contrasts in this text. There is no neutrality. This is a black and white text. There are two kinds of people—those who trust in God and those who do not. There are two results—blessing and cursing.

The Discovery of Rivals

Our lack of trust in God could manifest itself in several ways. The text refers to these.

1. Others “Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind”
2. Ourselves “Who makes human flesh his strength”
3. Anything—Anything that our heart might lead us astray.

The Deception of Rivals

Our hearts deceive us. People and abilities often appear to work for a while, but then let us down.

R. A. Torrey (1856-1928)said, “We live in a day characterized by the multiplication of man’s machinery and the decreased emphasis (diminution) on God’s power. The great cry of our day is work, work, work, organize, organize, organize. Give us some new society, tell us some new methods, devise some new machinery; but the need of our day is prayer, more prayer, and better prayer.”

Your future depends on total trust.

The One who trusts in anything else. (17:5-6)

The description is total devastation.

The One who trusts in God. (17:7-8)

The description is blessing and survival even when great difficulty (heat) comes.

You decide in whom to place your trust.

Jeremiah 6:16-- This is what the LORD says:

Stand by the roadways and look.
Ask about the ancient paths:
Which is the way to what is good?
Then take it
and find rest for yourselves.
But they protested, “We won’t!”