

CALLING DARKNESS LIGHT

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Text: Isaiah 5:18-24

Purpose of the lesson: Convey to the audience the spiritual decline of the people of Israel and Judah, and how the Lord punished them for their sins. At the same time, convey the fact that we must stay away from sin; otherwise, we also, will be punished.

INTRODUCTION

1. The things written aforetime were written for our learning (Rom 15:4).
2. Great lessons from the Old Testament regarding the things we can learn from a positive stand point and also a negative stand point.
3. We do realize that we no longer live under the Old Testament law; nevertheless, we do learn from it.
4. The lesson that has been assigned to me this evening is entitled, "Calling Darkness Light" (Isaiah 5:20). This lesson will be taking from the fifth chapter of the book of Isaiah.
5. In this lesson I want to present to you the two points:
 - a. The remote and immediate context of Isaiah 5:20.
 - b. Spiritual applications based on the title of our lesson "Calling darkness light."
6. Let me encourage us to keep in mind James 1:22. Let us be doers of God's Word.

Calling Darkness Light: The Context of Isaiah 5:20:

THE REMOTE AND IMMEDIATE CONTEXT OF THE TEXT UNDER CONSIDERATION

1. **The Vineyard Illustration:** Chapter 5 begins with the story/illustration of how God planted a vineyard, which sadly to say, produced wild grapes, instead of good grapes.
 - a. The application/interpretation of this illustration is that Israel and Judah became the wild grapes, that is to say, they became unfaithful.
2. **The Sins of Israel and Judah:** *In this chapter we also learn about some of the sins of which Israel and Judah were guilty of:*
 - a. Covetousness (8-10)
 - b. Carnal pleasure (11-12)
 - c. Negligence towards the work of the Lord (12)
 - d. Bible ignorance (13)
 - e. Presumption (18-19)
 - f. Moral perversion (20)
 - g. Intellectual pride (21)
 - h. Drunkenness (22)

- i. Injustice (23)
- 3. **God's Judgement for His People:** In this chapter we also learn about God's judgement towards Israel and Judah for their sinful practices:
 - a. God will take away the vineyard's hedge, will breakdown its wall, will be trampled down and burn (5:5)
 - b. God's vineyard will be lay to waste, it will have thorns and there will be no rain on it (5:6).
 - c. God's people were taken into captivity for their lack of knowledge (5:13).
 - d. God's anger is aroused against His people (5:25).
 - e. God will call other nations as tools of punishment for His rebellious people (5:26-30).
- 4. This information can help us to be familiar with chapter 5.
- 5. Now let us consider the present spiritual applications for us today. The things you and I can learn from this chapter.

PRESENT DAY SPIRITUAL APPLICATIONS LEARNED FROM THE CONTEXT UNDER CONSIDERATION: "CALLING DARKNESS LIGHT."

- 1. Again I want to emphasize Romans 15:4, where Paul reminds us that the things that were written in the Old Testament, were written for our learning.
- 2. The Old Testament is available to us today so that we may learn spiritual principles that can help us to be better servants of God.
- 3. Our lessons comes from Isaiah 5:20, "*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*"

 - a. One thing we need to keep in mind is that things have not changed at all. Sin continues to be a major problem in the world!
 - b. Isaiah wrote about 2,750 years ago, and the sins he pointed out, are still prevalent in our own times.
 - c. We have identified the sins mentioned in this chapter; now let us consider the things we can learn for our own benefit.

- 4. *In this fifth chapter of the book of Isaiah, we learn the following lessons:*
 - a. **We must not call drunkenness** something that is not in conflict with the Word of God. Most people do that today! (5:22). People call it, "social drinking."
 - b. **We must not call negligence** towards to the work of the Lord something good. Most Christians today have no regard whatsoever towards the work of the Lord (attendance, evangelism, doing good to others, etc.).
 - c. **We must not consider Bible ignorance** something good. Bible ignorance is rampant in the church and in society. Bible knowledge will destroy you!
 - d. **We must be careful not to consider sin** something good (20). We see that today with regards to false doctrine, immorality, etc.
 - e. **We must not think we are smarter** than God, or others (21).

- f. **We must not think that God's judgement** will not come upon us for practicing sin (18-19, 26-30; Romans 11:22; Hebrews 10:31; 12:29). Many live in this way, thinking God will not punish disobedience!
5. You may say "I am not guilty of any of these sins", and you may be right; nevertheless, we must take heed, lest we fall (1 Cor. 10:12). "Actions speak louder than voice."
6. **What are the benefits of not calling darkness light, and light darkness?**
 - a. We will be the light of the world (Matthew 5:16).
 - b. The work of the Lord will grow spiritually and numerically.
 - c. Bible ignorance will not be a problem.
 - d. God will not punish us!

CONCLUSION:

1. God's people had become so unfaithful that righteousness stood at a distance (Isaiah 59:14). They were influenced by the wicked one (1 John 5:19).
2. The land was filled with sin against the Holy One of Israel (Jeremiah 51:5).
3. May God help us to not fall into their terrible spiritual condition.
4. Sin will make us spiritually blind to the point that sin will become something right in our eyes!

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