

Lessons from the Prophets

Devotion

Text: Isaiah 6

Introduction:

1. The prophets of God taught many things about the coming of the Messiah.
2. Yet they also had much to teach for the people of their own time.
3. The inspired word of God they preached was to correct and guide men in their faithfulness.
4. The examples they set in their lives demonstrated true obedience to God.
5. Thus, from the prophets many important lessons can be learned.

- I. DEVOTION PRODUCES PURITY (ISAIAH 6:1-8)
 - A. Isaiah's vision of God upon His throne motivated his dedication to the Lord.
 - B. Thus, he immediately recognized his sinfulness and unworthiness.
 - C. In His mercy and compassion, God provided the remedy Isaiah needed - forgiveness of his sins.
 - D. As a result, Isaiah answered God's call to go and preach to Israel.
 - E. "Isaiah was not ready to be a spokesman for God until he could be a true man of God" (Alan Highers).
 - F. Servants of God - especially teachers - must possess both faithfulness and ability (2 Timothy 2:2, 22; 4:12).
 - G. Devotion produces purity, without which one cannot be an effective servant of the Lord.

- II. DEVOTION PRODUCES PERSEVERANCE (ISAIAH 6:9-13)
 - A. When Isaiah agreed to go and preach, God immediately informed him that this would be no simple nor easy task.
 - B. The people would not listen and with stubbornness would reject the Word of God.
 - C. Furthermore, he was to continue this task until the destruction and captivity of the nation.
 - D. "God did not say, 'Be successful.' He said, 'Be faithful'" (H. Leo Boles).
 - E. Servants of God must persevere even if no one listens or responds to the Gospel (2 Timothy 4:1-5).
 - F. Devotion produces perseverance, without which one cannot be a faithful servant of the Lord.

- III. DEVOTION PRODUCES POSITIVITY (JEREMIAH 6:14)
 - A. Jeremiah prophesied during a most discouraging time.
 - B. The many false prophets in the land proclaimed a message of "peace, peace!"
 - C. In truth, there was no peace - a fact that was to be heralded by Jeremiah's preaching (20:8).
 - D. The people were glad to hear the false prophets but rejected and ridiculed Jeremiah (5:31).
 - E. However, the faithful prophet was able to overcome discouragement and continue teaching God's truth (20:9).
 - F. Devotion produces positivity, without which one cannot be a loyal servant of the Lord.

- IV. DEVOTION PRODUCES PERSISTENCE (DANIEL 1:8; 3:16-18; 6:10)
 - A. Daniel devoted himself to the Lord by purposing in his heart to always do right.
 - B. In every challenge, he and his friends stood up for right and showed obedience to God.

Lessons from the Prophets

- C. No matter the obstacle, challenge, or threat, they faithfully submitted to the will of God.
 - D. Devotion produces persistence, without which one cannot be an exemplary servant of the Lord.
- V. DEVOTION PRODUCES PERSUASION (AMOS 7:12-15)
- A. Dedication to the Lord caused Amos to be persuaded of the truth of God's Word – even if all others rejected it.
 - B. Because of this, he preached the Truth without compromise or alteration.
 - C. Amos was no “preacher for hire” – thus, he could not be bought!
 - D. Devotion produces persuasion, without which one cannot be a truthful servant of the Lord.
- VI. DEVOTION PRODUCES PRAISE (MICAH 6:6-8)
- A. Empty, ritualistic worship often plagued the people of God.
 - B. Because he was dedicated to God, Micah sought to offer to God true worship – and to teach the people to do the same.
 - C. Sacrifices are meaningless if one's heart is not involved in the giving of them.
 - D. God desires man's heart.
 - E. One who has truly dedicated himself to God will offer to Him whatever He desires.
 - F. Devotion produces praise, without which one cannot be an acceptable servant of the Lord.