

HEART ISSUES

Jeremiah 17:5-10

By detailing the reality of these heart issues Jeremiah sought to encourage his people to return to God.

I. THE DETOURED HEART (5-6)

- The curse of worldly confidence

A. ITS CONFIDENCE (5)

1. The Reliance: Trusting in man
2. The Focus: Making flesh his strength
3. The Result: The heart turns from God (see Heb. 3:12)

B. ITS CONDITION (6)

1. Barren: A desert shrub
2. Depressed: Never seeing success
3. Poor: Living in stony wastes
4. Lonely: In an uninhabited and unproductive land

II. THE DEVOTED HEART (7-8)

- The blessing of godly confidence

A. ITS TRUST (7)

1. Commitment: Focused on God
- He trusts *in the Lord*
2. Comfort: Faith in God
- His trust or hope *is the Lord*

B. ITS TRAITS (8)

- A tree and not a shrub!
1. Nourished: The tree planted by water
 2. Stable: Roots extended by the water
 3. Fearless: No fear of the heat or drought
 4. Productive: Does not cease yielding fruit

III. **THE DISCOVERED HEART** (9-10)

- Unknowable to man but known to God

A. MAN'S FAULTINESS (9)

1. The Facts
 - a. His heart is deceitful
 - b. His heart is desperately wicked or weak
2. The futility: No one can know it
 - a. Men will never figure it out
 - b. No one has insight or expertise in this area
3. The failure: It is foolish to trust a faulty human ... curses and misery await.

B. GOD'S FAVORABLENESS (10)

1. Superior Ability
 - a. He searches the heart
 - b. He tests the mind - See I Cor. 4:4-5
2. Superior Justice
 - a. Giving every man according to his ways
 - b. Giving every man according to his works

CONCLUSION:

How is your heart?

- Detoured from God or devoted to Him

Consider the questions in Job 13:9

"Will it be well when He examines you?
Or will you deceive Him as one deceives a man?"

We must seriously consider our heart issues

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