

What Are You Thinking?

In this unparalleled time of maintaining our distance from each other, it seems to be vital “as the day approaches” that all of us continue to “stir [one another] up” by faithful reminders “in the present truth”, even “though you know them”, and have heard them a thousand times. (cf. 2Pet. 2:12-15).

It is hard to ignore the plethora of TV commercials offering mental health assistance, involvement in group meditation services, psychological, spiritual and emotional services and treatment. We all look for answers, but unfortunately we don't live in the time of the Old Testament prophets. In ancient times God would reveal His coming judgment by His prophets. God would reveal His purpose so His people would know what was coming and why it was coming. That happened many times in Scripture. But that's not the case in all of God's judgments, and it's not the case now because there are no real prophets as Old Testament prophets were. There is no new revelation; God is not revealing things; that is all completed at the end of the book of Revelation in Scripture.

So we're looking at the world and we're seeing things happen, but we don't have the prophets as the Old Testament people did. So we can say with Isaiah 45:15, “Truly, You are a God who hides Yourself.” We don't get a word from heaven now. We're not hearing from God why this is all happening. That puts us in an interesting situation; a situation that perhaps reminds us how eager we should be to listen to Him. Job, speaking to God says, “I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. You asked, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, ‘I will question you, and you shall answer Me. I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You.’ ”

As a mid-week thought, I would ask that you ponder this prayer from Psalm 19:14: “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.” That reminds me of Joshua 1:8: “This book of the law,” (Scripture), “shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night.” Is that another way of saying “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight?”

Well, what are acceptable words and what is an acceptable meditation? Joshua 1:8, “This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night.” That's an acceptable meditation. So what you're thinking about and what you're talking about ought to be what? The Word of God.

That sounds like the centerpiece of the morning and evening Jewish prayer, also known as the Shema: “Talk about this when you lie down, stand up, sit down, and walk in the way. Teach it to your children so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. Then you will make your way prosperous, then you will have success.”

Do you want a flourishing, spiritually affluent life? Then let the words of your mouth and the meditation of your heart be acceptable in God's sight. What is acceptable in God's sight is that your thoughts and your words are biblical. Think on these things. Set your affection on things above. You ought to be living in the biblical realm with Scriptural thoughts and words all the time. Sooner or later it needs to show up in your life; and it will. I promise you it will. Now, what are you thinking?

Recently, I found a little poem on the subject of faith by Maud Frazier Jackson. She wrote this:

“What if I say the Bible is God's holy Word,
Complete, inspired, without a flaw,
But let its pages stay unread from day to day
And fail to learn they're from God's law?
What if I go not there to seek the truth of which
I glibly speak for guidance in this earthly way?”

“I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.”

– Job 23:12 –