

Fountain of Life

By Steve Pruitt

For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns — broken cisterns that can hold no water.

Jeremiah 2:13 NKJV

During the dry summer months in Palestine the people were forced to build cisterns to collect the rain water or water from small streams. This was particularly necessary in places where there were no large streams or springs. Most of the cisterns were dug in the earth or cut out of soft limestone. They varied in size and shape. With proper care the water could be kept in good condition for a while, but often it became dirty. Sometimes the cisterns would break and the water would leak out.

Through Jeremiah, God is describing the spiritual condition of Israel. They had exchanged God for the idols of other countries which God called "broken cisterns that hold no water." Israel sought to be satisfied by something other than God. They exchanged eternal satisfaction found only in relationship with God for a temporary satisfaction which, in reality, did not satisfy them at all.

Many in the church have worshiped the idols of self-gratification such as prosperity, power, popularity and prestige. Others have worshiped the institutional church loving the traditions, doctrines and programs of man more than a fresh anointing of God's presence. In many churches ritual has taken the place of repentance and righteousness; works have taken the place of true worship. Man-pleasing has replaced God-pleasing.

Though we shrink back at the thought of this being evil, that is exactly what God calls it. He compares our worldly indulgence and religious toys to broken cisterns that hold no water. We can pamper our flesh thinking that will meet the needs of our heart. However, once we have indulged we find it is not enough.

Our thirst is only quenched in Jesus. Believing on and clinging to Jesus purges our old wells from the muck that has wrought defilement. In turn, faith in Christ produces in us fountains of living water that give eternal satisfaction. Worshiping in spirit and truth moves God to invade our world with his presence bringing with him refreshing waters from his throne.

Where do you turn for satisfaction? What are you looking toward to quench your thirst? Have you forsaken the fountain of living waters and dug out cisterns that hold no water? Are you thirsty for God alone? Ask God to reveal to you anything that you thirst for more than him. Ask him to be your total satisfaction.

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Scriptures for meditation:

Proverbs 19:23

John 7:37-38

Psalm 36:7-9