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Trust in God, Everything Will Be Fine

Jeremiah 17

The central idea of Jeremiah 17 revolves around the theme of trust. The chapter begins with a reference to the sins of the Jews, who had forsaken God, and therefore God's judgment was about to come upon them. The chapter then discusses the misfortunes of those who rely on their own strength and the happiness of those who trust in God. This contrast is used throughout the chapter to emphasize the importance of trusting God.

First, Jeremiah 17 shows that Judah's sin was 'engraved on the tablets of their hearts' (v.1), indicating that the people were so accustomed to doing evil that they could not extricate themselves. The only way out is for God to remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh. It is in human nature that it is easier to learn from bad than to learn from good, and the children of the people, who have grown up in an idolatrous environment, will inevitably imitate their sins.

Then Jehovah says, "Woe to him who trusts in the arm of flesh and blood and forsaken the Lord in his heart. For he shall be like the juniper of the desert, which shall not see happiness come, but shall dwell in the dry land of the wilderness, in an alkaline land where no one lives. Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD and trusts in the LORD." (vv.5-7). This contrast depicts the different outcomes of trusting oneself and trusting God. He who trusts in himself, like the juniper of the desert, lives in drought and desolation; But he who trusts in God is like a tree planted by water, even in hot and dry years, he does not fear, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The human heart is deceitful above all things, and wicked to the extreme, who can understand it? Jehovah is a searcher of hearts and a test of their hearts, and will reward each man according to what he has done and the result of his work (vv.9–10). It is revealed that man's nature has become utterly corrupt, terminally ill, and all that he thinks about is evil all the time. God has saved us not by works of righteousness by ourselves, but by His mercy through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5). But we often deceive ourselves into believing that "the human heart is more deceitful than all things" and that we are only talking about others, and we are not willing to face the deceit and sin of our own hearts.

Jeremiah 17:11 says, "He who does not gain wealth in the right way is like a partridge holding an egg that it did not lay of its own; And when he reaches middle age, all the riches shall depart from him, and he shall be a fool for the rest of his life." This warns us that if we do not get riches in the right way, we will eventually lose a trace. In the same way, if you serve God deceitfully all your life, you will find Him saying, "I never knew you: depart from me, you evildoers" (Matthew 7:23).

Jeremiah 17:13 points out that it is self-deception to turn away from God, "the fountain of living water," and to carve out for himself a broken cistern that cannot hold water. Far from believing in the impending calamity, the stubborn people sneered at the prophets, as if they were eager to meet the prophesied calamity.

Ostensibly in one's own hands, man's destiny is God's proclamation: 'They did not listen, they did not listen, they did not listen, they stiffened their necks, they were not taught' (v.23). All sins are slaves to sin, and sinners have lost the ability to make the right choices, let alone control their own destiny.

Man fell because he refused to enjoy God's rest, but instead sought to be like God who knew good and evil (Gen. 3:5). And the most satisfying and glorious thing for God to be able to satisfy God in the future is to enjoy rest with Him (Revelation 22:3-4). If a person refuses to listen to God, no matter how spiritual and hard he tries on the outside, but without actual fear and trust in his heart, he will "run around to change your way" when he encounters a crisis. Therefore, if we do not enjoy what God does, we cannot inherit what God wants us to do. If we do not rest in the Lord, no matter how we put it on, the end will be for God to "swear in his wrath, saying, They shall not enter into my rest" (Psalm 95:11; Heb. 3:11).

Here are a few examples of trusting God that show how people can gain strength, wisdom, and salvation by trusting God in the face of difficulties and challenges:

Abraham (Genesis 12-22)

Abraham is known as the father of faith. In his old age, he heeded God's call to leave his native people and go to the land of Canaan. He trusted God's promise with all his heart that he and his wife, Sarah, would receive a son who would bless him in spite of their old age, fulfilling his promise to be the father of nations.

Moses (Egypt Exodus 3-14)

Moses heard God's call in the burning bush and accepted the mission to lead Israel out of Egypt despite feeling inadequate.

David (1 Samuel 17)

When the young David faced the giant Goliath, he did not rely on his own strength or weapons, but completely trusted in God's help.

Daniel (Daniel 6)

When Daniel was a high official in Babylon, he was falsely accused of disobeying the king's command for prayer and thrown into the lions' den. He trusted God for protection and continued to pray without compromise.

Apostle Paul (Acts 16)

When Paul and Silas were arrested and imprisoned in Philippi, they prayed and sang hymns in praise of God in prison. In the middle of the night, there was a great earthquake, the doors of the prison were opened, and the chains of the prisoners were broken. Eventually, the guard and his entire family were baptized.

These examples show that trusting God can bring strength, hope, and miracle, in good times and bad. People who trust in God, despite the difficulties they may face, will eventually experience God's deliverance and blessings.

Let's pray together:

Thank Heavenly Father, dear Heavenly Father, that we are grateful to come before you and thank you for giving us these examples of trust. We have seen how Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel, and the apostle Paul demonstrated your glory and faithfulness by relying entirely on your strength and wisdom in the face of great challenges.

Lord, we thank you for teaching us the importance of faith through Abraham and for showing through Moses that obedience to your call can lead to great liberation and redemption. Thank you for showing us, through David, that even the smallest of forces can overcome great enemies when they trust in you. Thank you for showing us through Daniel that in the most dangerous of situations, peace can be found by relying on your protection. Thank you for showing through Paul that prayer and praise in the midst of suffering can lead to miraculous deliverance.

Lord, we pray that You will give us the same confidence and courage to rely on You in every challenge and adversity in our lives. Help us to be like these servants who trust in you, to rely on you steadfastly in good times and bad, trusting in your goodness and mercy.

Heavenly Father, we know that we are weak in nature and always rely on our own strength and wisdom, so please forgive us for our conceit and unbelief. Please use your Holy Spirit to guide us and help us walk with you every day, trusting you and listening to your leading.

Lord, we pray that You will perform miracles in our lives, that we will see Your deliverance in times of adversity, and that we will experience Your power in the midst of challenges. May our trust bear witness to your glory, and may our lives be a manifestation of your grace.

Thank you, Lord, for your lovingkindness and faithfulness. We give you all glory and pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

Jeremiah1-7

17:1 The sins of Judah were recorded with a pen of iron and with a diamond of gold . It is inscribed on the tablets of their hearts and on the corners of their altars.

17:2 Their sons and daughters remember their altars and puppets by the verdant trees on their high hills.

17:3 O the mountains of my field, I will give your goods, and your treasures, and your hills, and your plunder, to your enemies because of the sins which you have committed in the four realms.

17:4 and because of your sin you will lose the inheritance which I have given you. and I will cause thee to serve thy enemies in a land which thou knowest not know, for thou hast set my anger on fire until it burns for ever.

17:5 Thus saith the Lord, Woe to the man who trusts in the arm of flesh and blood, and forsakes the Lord in his heart.

17:6 for he shall be like the juniper of the desert, who will not see happiness come, but shall dwell in a dry place in the wilderness, and in a land of inhabitants without inhabitation.

17:7 Blessed is the man who trusts in Yahweh, in whom Yahweh and Hwa are trusted.

17:8 He shall be like a tree planted by water, and shall take root by the river, and shall not be afraid when the heat comes, and shall remain green in its leaves, and shall not be anxious in a year of pour, and shall bear fruit.

17:9 The human mind is more deceitful and corrupt than all things, and who can understand it thoroughly. 17:10 And I am the one who searches the heart, and the heart of man, to repay each man according to what he has done and the result of his works.

17:11 He who does not gain wealth in the right way is like a partridge and is not an egg of his own. When he reaches middle age, all the wealth will be separated from him, and he will eventually become a fool.

17:12 Our sanctuary is a glorious throne, which has been set on high from the beginning.

17:13 Yahweh, the hope of Israel, whoever forsakes you will be put to shame. Yahweh said, Depart from me, their names will be written in the earth, for they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water.

17:14 Jesah, cure me, and I will be healed; save me, and I will be saved. for thou art which I praise.

17:15 And they said to me, Where is the word of Yahweh, that it should be tested.

17:16 As for me, who is a shepherd with you, I have not left in haste or thought about the day of the woes, for you know. All the words that come out of my mouth are before you.

17:17 Do not make me frightened because of you; In the day of calamity, you are my refuge.

17:18 Let the shame of those who persecute me not put me to shame or to terrify them, but let me not be terrified, so that the day of calamity may come upon them to destroy them with double destruction.

17:19 And Yahweh said to me, Go and stand at the gate of the people, the gate by which the king of Judah goes in and out, and at the gate of Jerusalem.

17:20 And he said to them, Listen to Jehova, you king of Judah, and all the people of Judah, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and all those who come in through these gates.

17:21 And thus Jehohua said, Take heed that you do not carry any burden on the Sabbath day and enter into the gates of Jerusalem.

17:22 And do not take your burden out of your house on the Sabbath; You shall do no work except that the Sabbath day shall be holy, as I commanded your fathers.

17:23 But they did not listen, they did not turn their ears to listen, but they stiffened their necks and did not listen or be taught.

17:24 And Yahweh said to them, If you will give ear to me, you will not bear any burden to enter into every gate of this city on the Sabbath day, but you will make the Sabbath day holy, and you will do no work on that day.

17:25 Then the kings and princes who sat on the throne of David entered the gates of the city with the children of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, either in chariots or on horses. and this city shall endure forever.

17:26 And men will come from all the cities of Judah, and from all the places round about Jerusalem, from the land of Beniah, from the high plains, from the mountains, and from the

south, with burnt offerings, and peace offerings, and grain offerings, and frankincense, and thanksgiving offerings. and go to the house of Jehovah.

17:27 And if you will not listen to me, and will not make the Sabbath day holy, but carry your burden on the Sabbath day, and enter into the gates of Jerusalem, I will kindle a fire in the midst of them, and this fire will devour the houses of Jerusalem. It cannot be extinguished.

The central idea of Jeremiah 17 is about the theme of trust. The chapter begins with the sins of the Jews, who have forsaken God and whose punishment will come upon them. The chapter then goes on to speak of the misfortune of those who trust in their own strength in contrast to the happiness of those who trust in God. Specifically, some of the key takeaways in this chapter include:

- Judas condemned for rebellion against God (17:1-4)
- Judah cursed for trusting in himself (17:5-6)
- Those who trust in God will be blessed and protected by God (17:7-8)
- The human heart is unreliable, but God's heart is faithful (17:9-10)
- God can see everyone's actions and judge their hearts (17:10-11)
- Those who disobey God will be punished, but those who trust in God will be comforted (17:12-14)
- God is our refuge, and only He can save us (17:15-18)
- God asks people to rest on the Sabbath, but Judas do not listen (17:19-27) Therefore, this chapter emphasizes the importance of trusting God and the consequences of not trusting God. At the same time, the chapter also mentions that God is faithful and just, and that he judges the actions of all people and provides protection and comfort to those who trust in him.

In Jeremiah 17, there are a few important verses that are as follows:

1. Jeremiah 17:5: "Woe to the LORD who trusts in the arm of flesh and blood and forsaken the Lord in his heart." Here Jeremiah prophesied that those who relied on their own strength and wisdom rather than on God would be punished by calamity.
2. Jeremiah 17:7-8: "Blessed are those who trust in the Lord and trust in the Lord." He shall be like a tree planted by the waters, and shall take root by the river, and shall not be afraid when the heat comes, and shall be green and shall be verdant, and shall not be anxious in a dry year, and shall not cease to bear fruit. Here Jeremiah says that those who rely on God and believe in Him will be blessed. They will be like trees rooted at the water's edge, unaffected by heat and drought, and the results will exceed their expectations.

3. Jeremiah 17:9: "Who can understand the heart above all things, and in the utter bad of it?" Here Jeremiah emphasizes that the human mind is very complex and strange, and that it is easily deceived and seduced. Only God can truly know the mind of man.

4. Jeremiah 17:10: "I, the Lord, am a searcher of hearts and a test of their hearts, and I will repay every man according to his deeds and the results of his works." Here Jeremiah says that God is the God who judges hearts and deeds, and that He judges and punishes each person based on their actions and results.

Jeremiah 17 explores the aftermath of the Israel people's rebellion from God and their trust in man and their own schemes

fruit, and the blessings and protection that come with trusting God. Here are just a few of the important theological central ideas and theological takeaways:

Confidence and Trust in God: In Jeremiah 17, God criticizes the people of Israel for turning away from God because they trusted in their own strength and man's schemes. They focus on human power and external factors and ignore the importance of trusting God. This reminds us not to rely on our own wisdom and strength, but to trust God with all our hearts and seek His guidance and protection.

Well-being of the soul: In Jeremiah 17, Jeremiah mentions that those who trust God are like trees in the desert, deeply rooted and unafraid of drought. On the contrary, those who turn away from God are like thistles in the desert that have no water, losing their roots and withering. This shows that those who trust God will find peace of mind and blessings, while those who turn away from God will face desolation and vanity.

God's Wisdom and Love: In Jeremiah 17, God is described as a God who measures the heart and heart, knowing the inner part of each person. His wisdom is beyond human comprehension, and He can examine human actions and motives. This shows that God is omniscient and omnipotent, and that He loves His people and cares about their heart's needs.

Rest in God's embrace: In Jeremiah 17, Jeremiah calls people to rest in God's arms and seek God's mercy and protection. God is faithful, and He is willing to accept those who trust Him and rely on Him.

Overall, Jeremiah 17 emphasizes the importance of trusting God and reminds people not to rely on their own strength and wisdom. The central idea of the theology emphasizes God's wisdom and love, and calls us to rest in God's arms and trust in His guidance and protection. It also reminds us to humbly obey God, to seek His will and leading, and to trust Him as our true help and refuge.