

Bring Forth the Precious and Be Healed

Jeremiah 15:10,16-21

Jesus describes the reign of God to be like finding a buried treasure or an exceptional pearl and then consolidating your resources in order to obtain it. This implies of letting go of all the worldly things that hinder us from concentrating on things above and completely imbedding ourselves into God's reign.



Jeremiah said when he found the Lord's words he devoured them and they became the joy and happiness of his whole being, i.e., this was the great treasure he found! One expects to celebrate when finding a great treasure but Jeremiah notes that he did not sit celebrating in the circle of merry-makers but sat alone under the weight of the Lord's hand and was filled with indignation, with anger about how unfairly he was being treated by those around him.

In the community he was a man of strife, of contention and cursed by all, bearing insult for the Lord. With the psalmist *he prayed to be rescued from all his enemies, all adversaries, all evildoers who constantly lie in wait for him, for there was no guilt of his own; he sought the strength of the gracious One, his stronghold in time of distress while he patiently waited for the downfall of all his foes (Psalm 59).*

In the meantime Jeremiah's pain was continuous, and he asked God why his wound was refusing to be healed! God's response was that he needed to



"bring forth the precious without the vile, the precious without what is worthless," and only then will the tables be turned on his persecutors and healing come.

Then he will not only hear God's words but he will speak them with authority causing the people to turn to him while he will not turn to them. He will be made a solid wall which no one will be able to prevail against and will be freed from the hand of wicked mighty men.

If God told this to such a great prophet as Jeremiah, what is he telling us about "bringing forth the precious and not what is worthless?" Perhaps we are doing some mindless things in subtle ways that seemingly escape our attention.

We might think ourselves so pure but God hears all of our words, understands all of our actions, and we may often mix the worthless with the precious in subtle ways. When the heart is pure, what comes from the heart is precious. Cleanse the heart, bring forth the

precious, and just as Jeremiah's "incurable wound" was eventually healed so will Jesus heal ours.

Practice the Precious

Kind

Compassionate

Humble

Gentle

Meek

Forgiving

Generous

Truthful

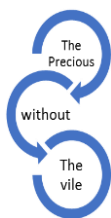
Holy

Kind-hearted

Supporting

Hopeful

Uplifting



Reject the Vile

cruel

indifferent

arrogant

callous

brazen

denunciating

miserly

deceitful

wicked

mean

neglecting

pessimistic

depressing