

Going Against Wind and Tide
Lessons from the Prophet Jeremiah
Knowing God (#7)

Jer. 9:23-24

Review

I. The Terrible Indictment: “They Do Not Know Me”

- A. The Lord’s Indictment
 - 1. the spiritual leaders did not know God (2:8)
 - 2. the people did not know God (4:22; 9:1-3; 9:4-6)
- B. The meaning of the indictment
 - 1. they had lost the knowledge of God (objective knowledge)
 - 2. they had become strangers to God (subjective knowledge)
 - 3. they no longer walked in His ways (ethical implications)

“Especially noticeable is the wide gulf between the God of biblical faith and the God of modern culture-religion (in both its conservative and liberal modes). The God of folk religion is a God of sentimental love, not holy love. He is the One who forgives no matter what we do. He is the “Man upstairs” who is approached as an indulgent father, not as a Sovereign King. This is the god who is a means to man’s own happiness, who enables man to attain self-fulfillment. . . In popular evangelicalism God is portrayed as powerful, but not invincible. His loving mercy is exalted but not His universal Lordship. God, it is thought, desires our worship, but little recognition is given to His kingship over all areas of life” (Donald Bloesch, Essentials of Evangelical Theology, I. 45).

II. The Three Fading Glories (9:23)

- A. Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom
- B. Nor the mighty man boast of his might
- C. Nor a rich man boast of his riches
- D. When God is diminished, Man is exalted

III. The True Ground for Glorifying (9:24)

- A. Let him who boasts (glories), boast (glory) in this
 - 1. this is not some other man-centered glory “Hey, look at me I know God!”

2. This is a call to boast or glory in God Himself! (Psa. 20:7; 1 Cor. 1:31)
- B. That he understands and knows Me (subjective knowledge of God)
1. relational knowledge, personal knowledge, in covenant with God!
 2. this theme occupies a central place in the Word of God! (Psa. 9:10; Dan. 11:32)
- C. That I am Yahweh, who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on the earth (objective knowledge)
1. Knowing God means that we know what He is like!
 2. know God's *hesed* (loyal covenant love)
 3. Know God's justice (His commitment to doing right)
 4. knowing God's righteousness (God's standards)
- D. For I delight in these things declares Yahweh
1. Yahweh delights in these things in Himself
 2. But He also delights in the rays of these things in His own people!

Conclusion

“Our aim in studying the Godhead must be to know God Himself the better. Our concern must be to enlarge our acquaintance, not simply with the doctrine of God's attributes, but with the living God whose attributes they are. As He is the subject of our study, and our helper in it, so He must Himself be the end of it. We must seek, in studying God, to be led to God. It was for this purpose that revelation was given, and it is to this use that we must put it” (Packer, Knowing God, 18).

It is only in knowing God, that we will be equipped to go against wind and tide.