

Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”

Solomon speaks of the superiority of three over two, saying *“And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”* John speaks pointedly to three groups of disciples, *“fathers,” “young men,”* and *“children”*. John also says there are THREE that bear witness in heaven and there are three that bear witness in the earth. The LORD JESUS was three days and three nights in the earth even as the prophet Jonah was three days in the belly of the fish. Paul tells us there are three abiding graces which the HOLY SPIRIT is pleased to manifest in the sons of GOD. *“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”* So we can conclude that there is some significance in the use of this particular number in these instances.

We can see the same thing here in the book of Isaiah as the LORD used a threefold illustration in HIS description of the *“daughter of Zion”* (which I believe is the church of GOD, HIS elect bride, or that remnant which is left). She is likened to a *“cottage in a vineyard,” “a lodge in a garden of cucumbers,”* and a *“besieged city”*.

She is as a *“lodge in the cucumber patch”* since there is nothing in the kingdom of GOD which is to be desired by the natural man. He has no desire to be found numbered with her nor can he see her beauty, yet this is indeed the hope of the saints. *“I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.”* She has a beauty which cannot be hid but yet at the same time, cannot be seen by any but those to whom the LORD will give eyes to see.

She is likened to a *“besieged city”*. Not only do the enemies of GOD see no desirable beauty in the bride of CHRIST, they are secretly jealous of her favor with GOD and would persecute her night and day. Her single hope, the cross of CHRIST, is that which is despised by all of those outside the city walls. The offence of the cross shall never cease among men until such time as death and hell are swallowed up in the pit of destruction along with all those who are not written in the LAMB’S book of life. The religious world may pay lip service to the work of CHRIST on the cross, but to a man they will rise up in anger when its particular and definite nature is proclaimed. So the little remnant which the LORD has chosen and preserved is despised and rejected and even though hidden behind impenetrable walls in complete safety (*“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.”*)

The third illustration of the state of the *“daughter of Zion”* is that of a *“cottage in a vineyard”*. There is no likeness between the vineyard and the cottage. The man who is simply looking for wine is unconcerned with the cottage but is only interested in the fruit of the vine which he believes will cheer his heart and fill his soul. This vineyard is like the religion of this world which grows abundantly and satisfies the needs of those whose desire after it is to fill their own lusts and wishes. I am amazed at the proliferation of what I would call, *“designer churches”*. They are on every corner, we have Cowboy churches, Indian churches, motorcycle churches, etc. The idea is to try and make *“religion”* convenient and appealing to those who would like to combine the world and the kingdom of GOD.

Yet the kingdom of GOD stands in total contrast to the ways of the world. *“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? “Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.”*

That little cottage is where the VINEKEEPER dwells and is a place of refuge for those workers in the vineyard which the LORD has called. HE has made HIS people desire to serve in HIS vineyard not for the fruits which can be found in abundance but because they desire to be found where HE is worshipped in SPIRIT and TRUTH. HE alone is their refuge. This little cottage is built by the LORD of the manor who has planted both those vines that bring forth wild grapes and also those branches that are grafted into the TRUE VINE. Both shall grow until the time of the end when HE shall separate the precious from the vile. *“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. “*

“Thy free grace alone,”#11 If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthepoor@windstream.net