

What Does God Expect?

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I. Introduction. Text: Jeremiah 34-39.

II. The mark of spirituality is how people treat other people.

A. The king tried to placate God by holding people accountable for laws that were no longer being practiced such as laws governing slavery. (Deuteronomy 15)

B. God charged the Israelites with defaming Him for treating the slaves inappropriately.

III. The power of tradition has greater force than the revelation of the living God. The dead hand of the past is with us in many ways holding us with its grip.

IV. When one loses the fear of God, he is on his way to destruction, for the fear of God is based upon the power one exercises in life.

A. There is an inevitable consequence for wrongful things done.

B. Man proposes but God disposes.

V. There is a poetic justice to God's judgment—the city that refused God was refused by God, the temple that burned incense was burned, the king that would not see had his eyes removed. God's judgment is fitting.

VI. Ways in which individuals seek to overturn God's will.

A. People can ignore and refuse to listen to God and give themselves over to the things that make them forget.

B. People can persecute the prophets of God and hinder the message of God.

C. People can seek to circumvent oncoming catastrophe by manipulating politically.

D. People can compromise in outward ways, but they fall short of real submission to God.

Application questions:

1. What are some traditions in the church today that can become hindrances to spiritual growth?

2. What kind of circumstances are said today that a person "reaps what he sows?"

3. What is the fear of God? How can your life reflect this principle more and more on a daily basis?
