

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

Welcome friends to another broadcast of "Morsels for Zion's Poor"

I knew a fellow who was fond of saying, "even a blind hog can find an acorn every now and then." He was being descriptive of the fact that sometimes even those who have little spiritual understanding can speak the truth, even though they might make a misapplication of it or fail to see the forest for the trees. One instance that comes readily to mind is regarding subject of "tithing" as the Pharisees understood it.. HE said, "*But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.*" HE did not condemn them for tithing, but rather making a big deal out of it while ignoring far more weighty matters which the Kingdom of GOD is concerned with.

One these instances, which stands out most starkly was when they brought to HIM the woman taken in adultery. They were exactly correct in stating what the law said. This woman was indeed worthy of death by stoning. Yet HE made full application of the law to each one of them, and they went away smitten in conscience like a dog with its tail between its legs slinking back in their darkness.. HE then used this incident to demonstrate HIS mercy to this fallen sinner who had no excuse and felt the just condemnation of the law. Only the LORD can bring a clean thing out of an unclean and use justice as an occasion to show mercy.

Thus we read Zophar's declaration to Job. Now indeed, Zophar spoke much truth if we simply look at what he said out of the context in which he said it. Zophar, however was in reality seeking to take Job down a notch, rather than simply glorying in that which upon its face value, one could not disagree with. His purpose in describing the end of the "hypocrite", was to accuse Job of being just such a man, and to explain to him that this was the reason for his calamities.

Had Zophar any true understanding, he would have spoken words of encouragement to Job, rather than loading him with condemnation. The reality is that those who are the greatest discoverers of "hypocrisy" in others are generally greater hypocrites in the process. Who among the sons of men, when illumined by the SPIRIT of GOD, would not confess to seeing his own hypocrisy on shameful display, whenever he is able to uncover it in someone else.

Of late we have had great examples of such in the political realm as many of our august "statesmen" adopt a "holier than thou" attitude as the sin of other politicians is brought out, by stinging accusations if not actual fact. Rather than weeping at the manifestation of sin, they see it as an opportunity to make gain for themselves, until the shoe is found to fit on their own foot, and then they as quickly begin to make the same excuses which they earlier condemned.

Augustus Toplady said that "hypocrites are like dunghills covered with snow." One may look at the white landscape and remark of its undulating beauty until the sun comes out and the snow melts away. Had Zophar merely been recounting the just desserts of wicked men and the certainty of the fact that all men must stand before the judgment of GOD, we should have had no reason to take issue with his claims. The "*triumphing of the wicked*" may often be very loud, even as Zophar demonstrates. There is no shortage of those who have "spiritual advice" for the multitudes or of those who are adept at pointing out the failures of men, most especially in comparison to their particular standards of "holiness". The "*triumphing of the wicked*" is indeed short. As Job says, "*Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.*" The "*joy of the hypocrite*" is "*but for moment*" That very transgression which he accuses others of is often that which captures him.

The moralists and humanists of the world opine that man has some great intrinsic value which in essence requires GOD to take notice of him and to reward him for the good things which he does. But, the only thing which is "owed" to man, is his destruction, according to the dictates of that holy law, which says; "*the wages of sin is death.*" The sweet sound of the gospel of the glory of the Blessed GOD, informs us that there is ONE who has gladly received that "reward" of death and the grave in the behalf of an undeserving rabble of hypocrites, profligates, and religious pretenders. "*Thy free grace alone,*" #11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthe poor@windstream.net ,**