

## **Hypocritical Worship**

### **Isaiah 1:10-20**

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Intro -

Last week we considered verses 2-9 under the Title - The Courtroom of Heaven - where the nation was under the scrutiny of God.

Today we want to consider verses 10-20 - where the focus is on the Religious aspect of the nation.

Simply titled - Hypocritical Worship.

Outline -

- 1 - The Command to Hear - verse 10
- 2 - The Questioning of their Sacrifices - verses 11-12
- 3 - The Condemnation of their Worship - verses 13-15
- 4 - The Call to Repentance - verses 16-17
- 5 - The Counsel of the Lord - verses 18-20

## **1 - The Command to Hear - verse 10**

Isa 1:10 Hear the word of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah.

Note - The people are addressed with less than flattering titles. (compare verse 9)

EJ Young -

[In destruction Judah was almost like Sodom; in wickedness she is identical therewith](#)

Note - In verse 2, the Heavens and earth are called to hear - Now the people are called to listen.

Consider - The Contrast - The Lord and the people of Sodom and Gomorrah.

App - What we were by nature and what God is.

(Luke 5) A sinful man.

Also - "Give ear" - They had not done this - Empty religion has no time for the Word of God.

## 2 - The Questioning of their Sacrifices - verses 11-12

Isa 1:11 To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.

Isa 1:12 When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?

Note - These two verses open and close with similar questions.

First question - Multitude - Too much.

**I am full** of the burnt offerings of rams

Illus - Like trying to eat when you are full of food.

Consider - The problem was not with the sacrifices - It was with the people - Hence -

Isa 1:12 When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?

Compare -

1Sa 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

(Jeremiah 6:19-20)

Albert Barnes -

“Hypocrites abound in Outward religious observances just in proportion to their neglect of the spiritual requirements of God’s word”

Mat 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Young -

They thus bring the offerings of their hands, but at the same time withhold the integrity Of Their hearts - a sacrifice offered without faith is a hollow mockery

Q. How are we approaching God this morning? In Faith?

### 3 - The Condemnation of their Worship - verses 13-15

Isa 1:13 Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting.

Isa 1:14 Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.

Isa 1:15 And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

Note - The Adjectives used - God's description of their worship -

**vain** oblations

incense is an **abomination** unto me

it is **iniquity**, even the solemn meeting.

they are **a trouble** unto me; I am **weary** to bear them.

Therefore -

Isa 1:15 And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

**“my soul hateth”**

Young in quoting Delitzsch -

My soul is not merely a substitute for the personal pronoun, but “the center of His being”  
We may paraphrase, “All that is in me hates.”

Regarding the people, he states -

In the very worship of God the nation was continuing its Rebellion

They divorced doctrines and practice, a procedure always attended with disastrous results

Fervor and zeal in prayer are not substitutes for obedience

#### 4 - The Call to Repentance - verses 16-17

Isa 1:16 Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

Isa 1:17 Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Note - Nine Imperatives - None of which they were doing.

The First Two address the need for Cleansing

Wash you,  
make you clean;

The Next Two - A Cessation of Wickedness

put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes;  
cease to do evil;

The Remaining Five

Learn to do well; - Be Students of Good

Calvin - [he addresses them as scholars who had not yet learned their earliest lessons.](#)

Which are listed as -

seek judgment,  
relieve the oppressed,  
judge the fatherless,  
plead for the widow.

Young -

[A nation cannot repent unless the individuals which compose that nation repent](#)

## **5 - The Counsel of the Lord - verses 18-20**

Isa 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Isa 1:19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

Isa 1:20 But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Consider -

Three observations in closing -

- 1 - It is unreasonable and foolish not to repent.
- 2 - There are wonderful promises for those who do.
- 3 - There are dreadful warning for those that do not.

May the Lord bless His word to our souls.

Amen.