



water from rock

## **Selah: Stop, Look, Listen- October 29, 2022**

The Lord be with you.

I have a question for you. The question, just between you and me., the question is, what do you feel most proud of in your life? What gives you the most satisfaction, the most good feelings about you? I guess another way of asking the question is what do you want to be known for? And one day, what do you want to be remembered for? It is a question that can help us keep the main thing, the main thing. It's a question to think about every once in a while, and I wanted to think about that question of what we're most proud of, I wanna think about that for the next few moments, as I'm in the Old Testament prophecy of Jeremiah.

Jeremiah, known as the weeping prophet, weeping for what has been. For what is happening in this nation, weeping for the spiritual rot that has set in, weeping that the nation has forgotten God. Jeremiah is warning where the people have gone wrong. So today, I'm looking at Jeremiah Chapter 9, 23 through 24, where I read, "Thus says the Lord, Do not let the wise boast in their wisdom. Do not let the mighty boast in their might, do not let the wealthy boast in their wealth, but let those who boast, boast in this, that they understand and know me, that I am the Lord."

In these verses, the Lord is putting his finger on what people usually boast about. Their wisdom, their might, their wealth. Things that people boast about, well, if not to others, they're gonna boast about to themselves. Their wisdom, that is their intelligence, their wit, their smarts, that they were wiser than others. And people, boast of their might, that's physical might, that social might, political might, that people are movers and shakers, that they get things done. And people, boast of their wealth and the things that their wealth can buy. The home, the cars, the vacations, retirement funds, even the influence that their wealth can buy. For many people that spells the good life. Wisdom might, wealth. But in today's scripture, God points out to the things that people tend to boast about, the things for which people work and aim their lives, the Lord points out that the things that most people are proud of, the things that people feel good about in themselves, the wisdom, the might, the wealth. Here is God's verdict about it all. Do not let the wise boast in their wisdom. Do not let the mighty boast in their might, do not let the wealthy boast in their wealth, but let those who boast, boast in this, that they understand and know me, that I am the Lord.

That's something to be known for. That's something to boast about. The Hebrew word translated boast is the word halal. That's H-A-L-A-L. It's the word from which we get hallelujah. It is to praise, to glory, to boast. Let those who HALAL boast, boast in this, that they understand and know me that I am the Lord. Here is the one true source of happiness, the only thing of real lasting value, and that is to understand and know the Lord. That you and I were made for... We were made for



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God. That's why God created us. That is the purpose of our existence, to understand and know the Lord and to be ever-growing and knowing him. The Hebrew word translated know, as I know the Lord, it's in the word yada. That's why Y-A-D-A. And it speaks of an experiential knowledge, it's not just say head knowledge, it's to know personally, not just to know the facts about someone, but to know that person in relationship. And this is the source of true happiness, of true, lasting value. To know the Lord, which means the relationship of knowing him. So that we trust Him, we rely on him, that we don't think of boasting in our wisdom, our might, our wealth. God made us for the purpose that we might know him, be in relationship with him.

I like how CS Lewis says it in his book, *Mere Christianity*. Lewis writes, "God made us, invented us as a man invents an engine, the car is made to run on petrol and it would not run properly on anything else. How God designed a Human Machine to run on himself, he himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other."

You see, wealth cannot give us happiness, might cannot give us happiness, wisdom cannot give us happiness because God designed us to run on him. So as we think about what we might boast in, as we think about what we would want to be known for, may it be that we know the Lord and we're growing in knowing him.

George Beverly Shea was a popular gospel singer and song writer who had been offered a career with NBC, but he chose rather for many years to sing the gospel with evangelist Billy Graham. When George Beverly Shea was a young man, one day, he said at his family's piano where his mother had left a poem titled, *I'd rather have Jesus*. As George Beverly Shea looked at the words of the poem, he began singing a tune to fit the words, and that became a song that George Beverly Shea sang at countless Billy Graham meetings. Perhaps you know the words. *I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold. I'd rather be his and having riches untold, I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands, I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hands than to be the king of a vast domain or be held in sin's dread sway. I'd rather have Jesus than anything this world affords today. That's something to boast about. That's something to live for. To know Him.*

Lord, may your Holy Spirit move and stir with us today, that knowing you more and more becomes the most important thing in our life. We pray that for your glory and for our eternal good.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.