10/11/26
Sunday 1st

Two Evils

Jeremiah 2:4-13

There are always events in our lives that become turning points, but I believe this year may be especially meaningful for us. First, in terms of missions, this year seems likely to be recorded as the year the Remnant Movement began in Latin America. Following Cuba, Nicaragua, and Guatemala, we are also expecting to hold a gathering in Honduras. One of our prayer topics for Latin America has been to establish 100 teams. In the past, we have occasionally sent out prepared disciples, each for approximately ten days at a time. This time, however, we will be sending Pastor Alonso to Honduras for one month. He will travel through six cities, sharing the gospel and seeking out disciples.

Pastor Jose Gonzales of Honduras has only recently entered into this Word movement. However, because he has connections with many existing pastors and organizations, he is serving as an important door for us. We are also planning to hold a National Conference in Honduras next year.

Last month, Pastor Ricardo returned from Nicaragua, where he had gone using his own expenses to share the word with pastors from his former denomination. And the representative of that denomination in Nicaragua is already sharing the Word along with us.

In Mexico, Pastor Israel, who comes from a Presbyterian background, is currently meeting with pastors through his connections with the Presbyterian denomination in Mexico. He has also asked for our thoughts on the possibility of holding a gathering with Presbyterian pastors next year. I believe this may be a year in which the scope and scale of our missions will expand significantly.

I also wonder whether God is beginning to bring about important changes inside our church. One day, God gave us the message of the Three Ages, and since then, He has given us many additional messages. We are organizing these messages and preparing for them one by one. There are many things that still need to be explained in detail, but they will continue to be relayed through future messages. I ask all the members of our church to offer many heartfelt prayers for the sake of this. I especially would like to ask the young adults to serve and volunteer with much devotion. We will carry out this work with a 300% mindset, having resolved in our hearts.

1. Two Evils

1) In verse 13 of today's passage, God says, "For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water." In verse 4, He calls out to all the clans of Jacob and Israel, telling them to hear the word of the LORD.
2) It was an age in which idolatry was severe. Verse 8 says, "The priests did not say, 'Where is the LORD?' Those who handle the law did not know me; the shepherds (or rulers) transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal and went after things that do not profit."
3) That was the extent of what the age had become. God identifies two sins that were committed during such a time: they had forsaken Him, and they dug cisterns for themselves, having nothing to do with Him. They worked diligently to dig these cisterns, but in the end, they were nothing more than broken cisterns that served no purpose.
4) This was the inevitable outcome of such a spiritual state. They put in a great deal of effort and spent a lot of time, yet all they accomplished was digging broken cisterns that were ultimately useless. It means this is what happens when people forsake God and do everything on their own. For believers, this is the case. There are also many non-believers who succeed through these methods. That is why their statuses are different.
5) This is another conclusion that describes mankind apart from God. They must have dug these cisterns with great expectations of finding good water. They likely worked hard, hoping that what

they dug would become not merely a cistern, but a wellspring of living water. Yet the result was a broken cistern, and all their efforts came to nothing.

6) At times, good water may have been found, but because they could not hold it, all their efforts still proved to be futile. This is the outcome that comes to all who forsake God and live as though they themselves are God.
7) Perhaps this is what the word 'fate' means: you know what needs to be done, yet things do not work out; things seem to be going well, yet there is nothing that remains. And this continues endlessly. Things are clearly happening, and there are even visible results, yet nothing lasts. It becomes a situation in which you can see things slipping away right before your eyes, but you have no choice but to let them go.
8) This is what fate is. How can we overturn and conquer this situation? We simply need to reverse the message of today's passage. We must not forsake God, and we must allow God Himself to dig the cisterns for us. Then every problem will be resolved.
9) This does not take place simply according to what we want. That is why there are not many among us who are witnesses of this kind of answers to prayer. However, it is by no means impossible. The Bible contains countless witnesses to this, and there are witnesses among us as well. We do not need anything else, we simply need spiritual strength. With that, everything is finished.
10) Jeremiah 29:13 says, "You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart." This is the word which says when we seek the Lord with all our hearts, He will meet with us. When this takes place, even the Lord who we were separated from, will return. The end of verse 6 also says that they did not ask, "Where is the LORD… who led us in the wilderness?" In other words, we must speak up and ask where God is. The beginning of verse 8 likewise says that the priests did not ask, "Where is the LORD?" and those who handled the law did not know God.
11) God has promised that if we seek Him, we will find Him. We must not dig cisterns for ourselves or do things apart from God. Instead, we must do everything together with God. This is the relationship we need to establish. For this to happen, one type of healing must take place within us. Our hearts must become God's heart, God's desire must become our desire, and God's reason must become our reason. When we reach this state, we will no longer dig cisterns for ourselves.
12) This is the way to ensure that our cisterns do not become broken cisterns, but instead become springs of God's living waters. Then we will be people who enjoy these wells throughout our entire lives. A tree planted by streams of water naturally bears fruit in its season. We, the branch, simply need to remain attached to the tree. When we reach this state, we receive answers which naturally take place, and our lives become lives of victory in which we win without fighting. Then there will be no broken wells in our lives.
13) Isaiah 55:3 says, "Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live." When our souls live, our spirits come alive and our eyes are opened. We come to know God and understand His heart, His thoughts, and His will. Then we naturally connect with God, be the ones who are meek, and inherit the earth.
14) When this happens, the cisterns we dig for ourselves will disappear from our lives. Every cistern will become a well of living water, and our broken wells will be overturned. When the word enters us, all these things happen at once. Everyone digs cisterns. We are digging them today, and we will dig them tomorrow. However, rather than suffering by digging them on our own, I hope that we will become people of God so that He can dig them for us. This does not distress God; rather, it brings Him joy. God desires to dig true wells of life for us. Our role is simply to receive them with thanks, give all the glory to God, and become witnesses to this work. When we do this, we have fulfilled our duty. The Lord is the master of every cistern in our lives. May this blessing be upon all of us today.