

The Lord's Hand Is Not Shortened.

Isaiah 59:1-8.

Sunday evening, November 16, 2008.

I. There is no problem with the Lord. Vs. 1,2.

- A. Chapter 59 continues with the same message started in Chapter 58.
Israel had been seeking the Lord. They had walked in His ordinances.
They had studied His word, and even sought Him with fasting. But all to no avail.
The Lord took no notice and did not answer them in the way they sought Him.
Instead He sent them Isaiah the prophet to show them what was going on.
- B. In seeking the Lord they had sought Him to bless their agenda.
The old man, the carnal man, is always possessed of his own agenda.
He seeks to make all things subservient to his own agenda.
Even his praying and fasting are nothing but ways to make the Lord of heaven
Himself subservient to his agenda.

Question:

How much of your seeking the Lord with prayer and/or fasting falls in this category?

- C. The issue in seeking and finding the Lord is always one of agenda's.
The Lord will not make Himself the servant of your agenda.
He will not hear you as long as you wish to serve your own agenda.
As such He suggests a total overhaul of their agenda's; an adopting of His agenda.
Only when our agenda is the Lord's agenda can we walk with the Lord and know
His fellowship.
1. He shows them what that agenda is in relation to their needy brothers and sisters in Chapter 58:6-12.
 2. He shows them what that agenda is in relation to Himself in Ch. 58:13,14.
 3. The Lord Jesus invites us to take His yoke (agenda) on us for His yoke is easy and His burden is light, and we will find rest for our souls. Matt. 11:29,30.
 - Bearing the yoke of your own agenda will make you weary and heavy laden.
 - Bearing the yoke of Christ brings a whole new freedom and rest to our souls.
- D. The Lord's hand is not shortened that it can not save.
His ear is not heavy that it can not hear.
Your iniquities (agenda) have separated you from your God.
He has turned His face away from you; He has turned His back on you.
He will not hear you as long as you wish to hold fast to your own agenda.
Only by surrendering our own agenda's to the cross of Christ, and by being raised with Him and His agenda, can we walk in fellowship with the Lord and experience the blessings that His presence brings.

II. The anatomy of the old man's agenda. Vs. 3-8.

All things are made subservient to one's agenda in life.

This is true of the old man as well as of the new man.

What follows is a taking apart the agenda of the old man's heart.

- A. "Your hands are defiled with blood(shed)."

Maybe not directly, but most certainly indirectly by not undoing the heavy

burdens 58:6; by not sharing their bread with the hungry 58:7, and by not providing life's essentials to those who go without. 58:7.

In withholding these things did they not contribute to the demise of these needy ones around them?

They withheld these things not for lack of opportunity, but for the presence of a different agenda. And what about us? Are we without opportunity? Or are we constrained by a different agenda?

- B. "Your lips have spoken lies; your tongue has muttered perversity."
They made their words the servants of their own agenda. Whatever furthered their own interests. And what about our speech and the things we argue about?
- C. "No one calls (not for, but...) in (or with) justice."
Frivolous lawsuits don't seem to be new. They are at least as old as Isaiah. Truth and justice were not at the bottom of these court proceedings, but their own agenda; to get out of their fellow man what they wanted.
- D. "They trust in empty words and speak lies."
Insofar they hear and believe what they hear, they trust in empty words, for the speaker serves only his own agenda in his speaking.
- E. "They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity."
Conceiving takes place in the thoughts of the mind.
Bringing forth comes with the actions and motions of the body.
What viper's eggs are for food and what the spider's web is for clothing, that is what man produces from his own agenda. He who tries to live by it will die by it. "He who desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it." Matt. 16:25.
- F. "Their feet run to evil."
... to shed innocent blood; ... to think thoughts of iniquity; ... wasting and destruction are in their path; These things are laid to their charge either for direct involvement, or by neglecting to make a difference where they could have. All because they wish to pursue their own agenda.
- G. "The way of peace they have not known" and "whoever takes that way shall not know peace."
The way of peace is never found in the pursuit of our own agenda.
The way of peace runs over Calvary where we surrender our own agenda to be crucified with Christ, so that we also may be raised with Christ, taking up His yoke as our own.

Have you traveled the road of peace?

Are you still traveling it?

Have you taken up the yoke of Christ and made it your own?

Are you still doing so?