

Sunday Night Message

December 8, 2013

Psalm 50

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 50

Introduction

Psalm 50 begins a new section of psalms, known to some as Book III. This is the first of the psalms written by Asaph, who also wrote Psalms 73 – 83. Asaph was a worship leader in Jerusalem. (1 Chronicles 15:15 – 19). The first psalm surrounding the bringing of the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem was delivered to Asaph from David to be sung before the people. (1 Chronicles 16)

Psalm 50 is a call for real worship by the people of God. God despises phoniness and ritual. God demands real worship by real worshippers.

I The Supreme Judge (vs. 1 – 6)

According to verse 4 and 6, we have an image of God presiding over a courtroom, and his people are the ones that are on trial:

*"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"
(1 Peter 4:17)*

Notice the three names for God in verse one – “the mighty” (el – meaning mighty one) “God” (elohiym), “the Lord” (Yehovah), and “the most high” (elyon) in verse 14.

Notice also the reference in verse 3 to fire:

"And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly." (Exodus 19:18)

"And the sight of the glory of the LORD was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel." (Exodus 24:17)

"For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest," (Hebrews 12:18)

"For our God is a consuming fire." (Hebrews 12:29)

God's holiness burns through the phony rituals of hypocritical people.

God intention was not punishment, but rather He was calling His children to repentance. God always warns before judgment comes, and God always gives an opportunity to turn back to Him.

II The Sinning Offenders (vs. 7 - 21)

A The Ritualistic (vs. 7 - 15)

These people were religious, but they "lost their first love". Their worship came not from the heart, but from habit.

"Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Put your burnt offerings unto your sacrifices, and eat flesh. For I spake not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices: But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you." (Jeremiah 7:21-23)

"For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings." (Hosea 6:6)

"Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:6-8)

God does not need our sacrifices:

"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;" (Acts 17:24-25)

God does not need our money:

"For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof." (1 Corinthians 10:26)

B The Rebellious (vs. 16 - 21)

Now these folks were also participating in the worship of God; but they were living double lives.

Remember what Samuel said to Saul:

"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. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king." (1 Samuel 15:22-23)

Notice verse 21 regarding God's silence:

"Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." (Ecclesiastes 8:11)

III The Sentence (vs. 22 - 23)

God's judgment is that both groups are guilty, and the sentence is judgment; but God offers a pardon to those who will:

- 1 To the ritualistic – be real - Offer sincere praise to Him.
- 2 To the rebellious – repent - Order their conversation aright.

God is not saying that people are saved by ordering their conversation aright, but he is saying that people that are real will be concerned enough about their rebellion that that God will offer them salvation.