

The Blessedness of Trusting and Hoping in the Lord

Ponder: Which would you rather be? A shrub in the desert, or a tree by the river?

Scripture: “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is in the Lord” (Jeremiah 17:7, NKJV).

Jeremiah prophesied at one of the darkest times in Old Testament history. Judah and Jerusalem faced certain destruction unless the people turned back to the Lord, but they gave no indication of repenting. Despite Jeremiah’s pleas and warnings, they trusted in themselves, in foreign nations, and in pagan gods. If they thought they were on the path to blessedness, they were sorely mistaken!

True happiness (blessedness) is found by trusting and hoping in the Lord. The one who does so “shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit” (Jeremiah 17:8). Quite the opposite picture is portrayed in 17:5-6 – “Cursed is the man who trusts in man, and makes flesh his strength” (the exact opposite of trusting in the Lord). “Whose heart departs from the Lord” (the opposite of hoping in Him). “For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land which is not inhabited” (the opposite of the tree by the river that bears fruit even during severe drought).

God’s people learned a hard and bitter lesson when their pagan neighbors betrayed their trust. In stark contrast, the Lord always proves Himself trustworthy, even to this very day. Political figures disappoint us; family members may let us down; let’s face it, we often disappoint ourselves! But when we trust in the Lord, we know He will do what is best, even if that isn’t exactly what we want.

So, would you rather be a scrawny shrub in the desert, or a fruitful tree by the river? Trust the Lord and put your hope in Him. Real happiness (blessedness) will be yours!

Song: “Trust And Obey”

Prayer: Faithful God, help us to put our trust in you with confidence that You will do what is best for us. Forgive us when we put our trust in ourselves or other people rather than in You. Guide us back to the right place. In Jesus’ name, Amen.