

Chuck Smith:

"TRUST NOT IN LYING WORDS"

Intro: Jeremiah just a young boy of 17 when God first spoke.

I. THE ATTITUDE OF THE PEOPLE.

- A. Temple had been ordered rebuilt.
 - 1. People gave freely.
 - 2. Workmen worked faithfully and well.
- B. Law of the Lord discovered.
 - 1. National reforms instituted.
- C. Passover feast observed in 18th year Josiah's reign.
 - 1. Greatest ever.
 - 2. Seemingly a national revival.
- D. As they gathered from far and near for this glorious occasion.
 - 1. God spoke to His young prophet to get down to the gate of the temple and cry, "Trust not in lying words, saying..."
- E. The people were exulting in rebuilt temple.
 - 1. They felt it meant national safety.

II. THE PROPHET JEREMIAH'S STATEMENT REFLECTING GOD'S VIEW OF THE WHOLE SCENE.

- A. These worshipping people guilty of sinning against fellowmen.
 - 1. Guilty of theft - murder - adultery - lying.
 - 2. People have renamed many sins.
 - a. They may call it an affair - flirtation.
 - b. They may call it cleverness - lie.
 - c. They may call it business shrewdness - cheating.
 - d. They may call it a trip - sorceries.
 - e. They may withhold tithes and call it conserving - God's prophet calls it robbery.
 - 3. God's young prophet stood trembling before these people who had come to worship God.
- B. These people had also been sinning against God.
 - 1. Burned incense to Baal, offering sacrifices to Molech - worshipping sun, moon, stars.
 - a. They thought these were just other forms of worshipping God.
- C. Religious observance can become blasphemous.
 - 1. It can be an opiate deadening your senses.
 - a. Prayer can become a deceitful farce.
 - b. Bible reading can become a fetish.
 - c. Gathering for worship can become a false security.
 - d. religious convictions can become a curse.
 - 1. Convictions are to be obeyed. If not they can deaden and destroy.
 - 2. Trust not in lying words.

III. WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

- A. The true value and proof of your religion is the effect it has on your conduct !
 - 1. The acts of worship not just valueless.
 - a. Blinding - deceiving - deadening - damning.
 - 2. Failure to obey the truth is far worse than not knowing the truth.
 - 3. Failure to follow convictions is far worse than having no convictions.
 - "To whom much is given much shall be required..."
- B. Sacred days, sacred places, sacred observances - are not as important as a right relationship with God.
 - 1. If you are guilty of robbery, murder, adultery, attending worship services, Bible classes, etc., blasphemy, you are trusting in lying vanities.
 - 2. The church without Christ is nothing. The celebration of Christmas by those who do not know what the incarnation means, is blaspheme. The celebration

Jeremiah 7:4

**of Easter by those who know not that resurrection life, is a curse.
The observance of a rite, apart from the life of which the rite is a
symbol, is death.**