

Let Us Do What Israel Did Not Do!

Text: Jeremiah 6:16-17

Introduction:

1. Israel was often a disobedient nation.
2. God sent prophets, such as Jeremiah and many others to bring Israel back to Himself.
3. Israel would not listen – they went about and did everything that was right in their own eyes.
4. Right now, God is calling us, as Christians, back to Himself.
5. To be revived in the New Year of 2008, we **need to do** what Israel didn't do.

I. **ASK** - "...ask for the old paths, where is the good way..." (v16)

a. Ask For The Old Paths

- i. Ask for the path Traveled by the Saints of old (*Hebrews 11*)
- ii. Ask for the path Traveled by faithful Saints of today (*Hebrews 3:15*)
- iii. Ask for the path To be traveled by the Saints in the future
- iv. Ask for the narrow path (*Matthew 7:14*)
- v. Ask for the path ordained by God
1. Through Jesus Christ the Son (*Acts 17:31; Ephesians 2:10*)
- vi. Ask for the path that leads to eternal salvation

b. Ask For The Good Way

- i. Ask for the good way that brings happiness
- ii. Ask for the good way that brings peace (*Philippians 4:7; Hebrews 13:20, 21*)
- iii. Ask for the good way that brings joy (*1 Chronicles 16:10*)
- iv. Ask for the good way that brings comfort (*2 Corinthians 1:4*)

We must not only ASK, but we must ACT

II. **ACT** - "...and walk therein...Hearken to the sound of the trumpet" (v17)

a. We must act by finding the Old paths

- i. Yes, the Old Path can be found (*Deuteronomy 4:29; Psalms 119:2; Jeremiah 29:13*)
- ii. But, we must look in the right places
 1. God's Word and ONLY His Word (*John 12:48*)
 2. Not in man's teachings (*Matthew 15:9*)
 3. Not in any other religion (*Matthew 15:13; Acts 4:12*)

b. We must act by remaining on the Old Paths

- i. Act by Studying God's Word and finding out how to stay on the Old Path (*2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 4:11*)
- ii. Act by being in obedience to Him (*1 John 5:13, 1-3*)

- iii. Act by doing His Will at all times (*therefore we must completely surrender to our Mighty God.*) (**Matthew 7:21; Luke 22:42**)
- iv. Act by Remaining faithful until the end

In addition to ASKING and ACTING upon we must ACCOMPLISH what we set out to do, for you see the stakes are so high (your eternal soul depends upon it) we must never procrastinate on our Spiritual matters.

III. ACCOMPLISH - "*...and ye shall find rest for your souls.*" (v16)

- a. Accomplish what we ask for and what we are to act upon.
 - i. By following through until the job is done
 - 1. Doing God's commandments and remaining faithful until the end (**Ecclesiastes 12:13; Revelation 2:10**)
 - ii. By keeping our 'nose' to the 'grindstone'
 - 1. Working out our salvation (**Philippians 2:12**)
 - iii. By never giving up and quitting
 - 1. (**2 Peter 2:21**)
 - iv. By never saying the job is to big
 - 1. If God be with you who can be against you? (**Romans 8:31**)
 - 2. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me! (**Philippians 4:13**)

In addition to ASKING, ACTING upon and ACCOMPLISHING our goal we must AVOID some things along life's pathway.

IV. AVOID (*ignoring God like Israel did.*) - "*But they said, we will not walk therein.*" "*But they said, we will not hearken.*" (v16, 17)

- a. Avoiding the pitfalls and temptations that Satan places before you.
 - i. Because of the heartaches that are associated with them (*Israel as an example when they selected Saul to be their king*) (**1 Samuel 8:5-18**)
 - 1. **And so many others who have left the Path prepared by God.**
 - ii. Because of the blessings that you no longer have being on the Old Path (**Malachi 2:2; Isaiah 59:1-3; Ephesians 1:3**)
- b. Do not ignore God's commands by saying what Israel said, "*...we will not walk therein*"
 - i. Because of the consequences are so great
 - 1. Your eternal soul is at stake
 - 2. God wants all to come to repentance (**2 Peter 3:9**)
 - ii. Because Jesus Christ died for you and I (**Romans 5:6-8; Isaiah 53; Psalms 22; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4**)

Conclusion:

- 1. Make your New Year's Resolution **to Do** What Israel Didn't.
 - a. By Asking for the Old Paths
 - b. By Acting upon our Asking

- c. By Accomplishing what we have Asked for and Acted upon
 - d. By Avoiding the traps that are set before us by Satan
2. Yes, we can make the year 2008 a great year of Spiritual revival in our own lives.
 3. The Line was drawn in the sand nearly 2,000 years ago, when Jesus Christ was crucified, was buried and was resurrected never to die again for YOU and I – **it is our choice** – the Old Paths set by God or the paths set by others or of our own will!!!!

**IT IS UP TO YOU-THE PATH IS SET BEFORE YOU!!!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT IN 2008?**