

What God Will Not Hear!
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
March 20, 2010

John 14:

- *13 "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

And we all know that many of our prayers don't bring the results we expected when we prayed. Or, at least, the prayer hasn't been answered yet, and we continue to pray in expectation that we will get the answer we desire.

1 Samuel 8

- *1 Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel.*
- *4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah,*
- *5 and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations."*
- *6 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the LORD.*
- *7 And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them."*
- *11 And he said, "This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots.*
- *12 "He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots.*
- *13 "He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers.*
- *14 "And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants.*
- *15 "He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants.*
 - *Don't we wish it was only a tenth!*
- *16 "And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work.*
- *17 "He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants.*
- *18 "And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the LORD will not hear you in that day."*

It is not surprising that this is the first time we are told in the Bible that God will not hear a prayer.

This was a very pivotal time in human history – the point in time when Israel turned from God as its leader.

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Psalm 66

- 1 Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth!
- 2 Sing out the honor of His name; Make His praise glorious.
- 3 Say to God, "How awesome are Your works! Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You.
- 4 All the earth shall worship You And sing praises to You; They shall sing praises to Your name." Selah
-
- 16 Come and hear, all you who fear God, And I will declare what He has done for my soul.
- 17 I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue.
- **18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.**

David recognized that sin originates in the heart.

Job 27

- 8 For what is the hope of the hypocrite, Though he may gain much, If God takes away his life?
- 9 Will God hear his cry When trouble comes upon him?
 - The obvious implication is an answer of “no”

Proverbs 28

- 9 One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.

Isaiah 1

- 1 The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.
- 2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the LORD has spoken: "I have nourished and brought up children, And they have rebelled against Me;
- 3 The ox knows its owner And the donkey its master's crib; But Israel does not know, My people do not consider."
- 4 Alas, sinful nation, A people laden with iniquity, A brood of evildoers, Children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the LORD, They have provoked to anger The Holy One of Israel, They have turned away backward.
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- 13 Bring no more futile sacrifices; Incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies-I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting.
- 14 Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; They are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them.
 - The people were observing Holy Days other than those God had given them
- **15 When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood.**

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Isaiah 59

- **1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear.**
- **2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.**
- 3 For your hands are defiled with blood, And your fingers with iniquity; Your lips have spoken lies, Your tongue has muttered perversity.
- 4 No one calls for justice, Nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity.
-
- 13 In transgressing and lying against the LORD, And departing from our God, Speaking oppression and revolt, Conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.
- 14 Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off; For truth is fallen in the street, And equity cannot enter.
- 15 So truth fails, And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him That there was no justice.

This scripture makes it clear that God could hear if He chose, but He will choose to not listen.

Jeremiah 7

- 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,
- 2 "Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house, and proclaim there this word, and say, 'Hear the word of the LORD, all you of Judah who enter in at these gates to worship the LORD!'"
- 3 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place.
- 4 "Do not trust in these lying words, saying, 'The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD are these.'
- 5 "For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings, if you thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor,
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- 11 "Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of thieves in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen it," says the LORD.
- 12 "But go now to My place which was in Shiloh, where I set My name at the first, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of My people Israel.
- **13 "And now, because you have done all these works," says the LORD, "and I spoke to you, rising up early and speaking, but you did not hear, and I called you, but you did not answer,**
- 14 "therefore I will do to the house which is called by My name, in which you trust, and to this place which I gave to you and your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh.
- 15 "And I will cast you out of My sight, as I have cast out all your brethren-the whole posterity of Ephraim.
- **16 "Therefore do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them, nor make intercession to Me; for I will not hear you.**

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This thought is taken further in

Jeremiah 11

- 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,
- 2 "Hear the words of this covenant, and speak to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem;
- 3 "and say to them, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Cursed is the man who does not obey the words of this covenant
- 4 "which I commanded your fathers in the day I brought them out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, 'Obey My voice, and do according to all that I command you; so shall you be My people, and I will be your God,'
- 5 "that I may establish the oath which I have sworn to your fathers, to give them 'a land flowing with milk and honey,' as it is this day.'"" And I answered and said, "So be it, LORD."
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- 13 "For according to the number of your cities were your gods, O Judah; and according to the number of the streets of Jerusalem you have set up altars to that shameful thing, altars to burn incense to Baal.
- **14 "So do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer for them; for I will not hear them in the time that they cry out to Me because of their trouble.**

John 17:

- 9 "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.
 - Jesus' final prayer makes it clear that He did not pray for those who have rebelled against God

And, again, in

Jeremiah 14

- 1 The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah concerning the droughts.
- 2 "Judah mourns, And her gates languish; They mourn for the land, And the cry of Jerusalem has gone up.
- 3 Their nobles have sent their lads for water; They went to the cisterns and found no water. They returned with their vessels empty; They were ashamed and confounded And covered their heads.
-
- 10 Thus says the LORD to this people: "Thus they have loved to wander; They have not restrained their feet. Therefore the LORD does not accept them; He will remember their iniquity now, And punish their sins."
- 11 Then the LORD said to me, "Do not pray for this people, for their good.
- **12 "When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I will not accept them. But I will consume them by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence."**

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Ezekiel 8

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- 4 And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the vision that I saw in the plain.
- 5 Then He said to me, "Son of man, lift your eyes now toward the north." So I lifted my eyes toward the north, and there, north of the altar gate, was this image of jealousy in the entrance.
- 6 Furthermore He said to me, "Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations that the house of Israel commits here, to make Me go far away from My sanctuary? Now turn again, you will see greater abominations."
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- 11 And there stood before them seventy men of the elders of the house of Israel, and in their midst stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan. Each man had a censer in his hand, and a thick cloud of incense went up.
 - Their actions had an appearance of religion
- 12 Then He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the room of his idols? For they say, 'The LORD does not see us, the LORD has forsaken the land.'"
- 13 And He said to me, "Turn again, and you will see greater abominations that they are doing."
- 14 So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the LORD'S house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz.
 - Tammuz was a vegetation deity who, according to legend, had married Ishtar – the fertility goddess and forerunner of Easter – also associated with Astarte, the fertility goddess known as the queen of heaven
- 15 Then He said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? Turn again, you will see greater abominations than these."
- 16 So He brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house; and there, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east, and they were worshipping the sun toward the east.
 - Sun worshipping
- 17 And He said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? **Is it a trivial thing** to the house of Judah to commit the abominations which they commit here? For they have filled the land with violence; then they have returned to provoke Me to anger. Indeed they put the branch to their nose.
- **18 "Therefore I also will act in fury. My eye will not spare nor will I have pity; and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, I will not hear them."**

Micah 3

- 1 ¶ And I said: "Hear now, O heads of Jacob, And you rulers of the house of Israel: Is it not for you to know justice?"
- 2 You who hate good and love evil; Who strip the skin from My people, And the flesh from their bones;
- 3 Who also eat the flesh of My people, Flay their skin from them, Break their bones, And chop them in pieces Like meat for the pot, Like flesh in the caldron."

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- **4 Then they will cry to the LORD, But He will not hear them; He will even hide His face from them at that time, Because they have been evil in their deeds.**

Zechariah 7

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- 4 Then the word of the LORD of hosts came to me, saying,
- 5 "Say to all the people of the land, and to the priests: 'When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months during those seventy years, did you really fast for Me-for Me?'
- 6 'When you eat and when you drink, do you not eat and drink for yourselves?'
- 7 'Should you not have obeyed the words which the LORD proclaimed through the former prophets when Jerusalem and the cities around it were inhabited and prosperous, and the South and the Lowland were inhabited?'"
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- 12 "Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Thus great wrath came from the LORD of hosts.
- **13 "Therefore it happened, that just as He proclaimed and they would not hear, so they called out and I would not listen," says the LORD of hosts.**
- 14 "But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations which they had not known. Thus the land became desolate after them, so that no one passed through or returned; for they made the pleasant land desolate."

Matthew 27

- 46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

Mark 15

- 34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

We have learned that God will not listen to us when:

1. We insist on our will above His
2. Iniquity, ill will, is in our heart
3. We are following other "gods"
4. We are asking for something for our own benefit
5. He makes a tough decision that cannot be changed

John 15:

- 9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.
- 10 **"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.**
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- 14 "You are My friends **if you do whatever I command you.**

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1 John 3:

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- 22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.
- 23 And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.
- 24 Now **he who keeps His commandments abides in Him**, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

IF we obey God's law, we have no reason to be concerned that He will not only hear our prayer, but will also answer it – in His time frame, as it aligns with His will.

God's will be done!