

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

Welcome friends to another broadcast of "Morsels for Zion's Poor"

King Ahab, the ruler of Samaria, set his eye upon a piece of property which belonged to Naboth the Jezreelite. Ahab really desired to have this vineyard for his own, since it was next door to his palace. He envisioned planting an herb garden there. He approached Naboth about acquiring the property from him and made him a fair offer for the parcel. But this property was precious to Naboth and he would not sell it.

King Ahab became very distressed at Naboth's refusal to sell, so much so that he couldn't even eat because of his disappointment. So Ahab's "lovely" wife, Jezebel, promised to get the vineyard for him. Through treachery and false witness (in the name of religion) she brought about the unlawful stoning and death of Naboth. Then Ahab was able to claim the vineyard as his own property, in this devious and unlawful manner.

There are some today who preach a message which they call "the gospel", wherein they picture GOD as in many ways like Ahab and his dilemma in acquiring the property of Naboth. First of all they depict man as being in control of his property (i.e.; his free will) which is sacrosanct and unassailable. Then they tell us that GOD really wants to acquire the property of the man but is powerless to obtain it since HE cannot or will not "violate" the man's freewill. Thus the LORD (according to their theory) can only wait helplessly by, hoping that the man will change his mind.

They tell us that the LORD has made man a very generous offer in exchange for this "property", and is willing to bless the man if he will but give in and take the LORD up on HIS offer. In somewhat the same fashion as Ahab's wife sought to bring relief to Ahab's "distress", some have come up with various schemes to persuade the man to relinquish his property. They might use carnivals, soup kitchens, fine buildings and wonderful programs for the whole family which promote various religious orders, persuasive orators preaching either health and wealth for all who have "faith", or the certainty of hellfire and damnation for all who reject the LORD's offer. Practically no "method" is unacceptable as long as it can produce results.

The desired "result" is to get men (by whatever means is available or useful) to take the "offer" which the LORD (according to them) has made and turn over their "property" (i.e.; freewill) to HIM, thereby making HIM happy and relieving HIS distress and them gaining great benefit, thereby. This, they tell us, is how men are saved and the LORD is made joyful.

There is nothing in the scriptures that would lead us to believe that such a scheme as this is true in any sense of the word. The GOD who rules in the army of Heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth has made all things for HIS own pleasure. HE is the CREATOR of all things from nothing which does now appear and no one has any right or standing to question HIS doing or HIS disposal of that which is HIS

Thus, HE is not "trying or hoping" to gain anything from the creature. Rather, HE has revealed to the creature that HE has determined to dwell with those whom HE has chosen in CHRIST from before the foundation of the world. It is here in the midst of these poor, afflicted, and unprofitable servants, that HE has taken up HIS abode as HE molds their wills and gives them repentant hearts which run after HIM, declaring allegiance to the Glorious KING of Zion.

HE demonstrates HIS love and affection for them by laying down HIS life for them in order to purchase their redemption and set them free from the curse of the law and the dominion of sin. *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

The display of HIS mercy to the helpless of this world defines HIS habitation. *"A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation"* HE has demonstrated that HE will show mercy in perfect concert with HIS justice as CHRIST is that ONE who does not only dispense mercy but does so by satisfying the demands of HIS holy law. *"To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."* Have you known CHRIST in HIS dwellingplace?

"Thy free grace alone," #11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthe poor@windstream.net ,**