

WHERE TO LOOK IN TROUBLED TIMES

#4—WE NEED TO LOOK IN!

PSALM 5

Introduction

With all that has happened and is happening both in our own country and in the world in recent times, we can clearly see that this is a troubled time for our nation and for the world. There are an increasing number of horrific acts that are being perpetrated by some very evil men!

World History is full of troubled times caused by evil men!

Sometimes that trouble is on a worldwide scale—World War II—Adolph Hitler

Sometimes that trouble is localized—Oklahoma City Bombing—Timothy

McViegh; The Boston Marathon Bombing—the two Chechnyan terrorists.

Whenever a tragedy comes because of evil men we often hear words to this effect: *“We need to find out why this happened and make sure that it never happens again.”* But we should know that is not possible as long as we have sinful men in this world!

We can try to eradicate all the evil men that we know of, but we need not think that the world will then be safe from evil or terrorism.

And by the way, taking arms from law-abiding citizens will only increase the amount of death and destruction as has already been proven!

This is the fourth message in this series on “Where To Look In Troubled Times.” Thus far we have said that in troubled times we need to:

“**Look Up**”—God is our Shelter, our Strength, and Our Stability for troubled times.

“**Look Back**”—Look Back At Our History, Look Back At How God Deals With Nations That Sin, Look Back At How God Deals With Nations That Repent, Look Back To God!

“**Look Out**”—Look Out For Deception, Look Out For Doubt, Look Out For Duty!

Today I want us to see that God would have us to “**Look In.**”

The news media have made their attempts and will continue to “*look in*” to why someone would do such evil as we have seen and continue to see.

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However, they fail to look in the right places. Some commentators blame religion, others blame the upbringing, some blame culture or society, some blame the accessibility of guns, (we could go on.)

When we go to look for answers, the best place to start is the Word of God!

I. WE NEED TO LOOK IN THE HEART OF A SINNER!

Jeremiah 17:9—“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

A. The Sinner’s Words Reveals His Heart!

(Psalm 5:9; Romans 3:10-14)

His speech is characterized by falsehood, foulness, and flattery.

1. His Speech May Be Characterized By Falsehood!

“There is no faithfulness in their mouth. . .”

“Faithfulness”— “to be erect.”

Romans 3:13—“ . . .with their tongues they have used deceit. . .”

Did you know that God takes the sins of the mouth very seriously?

Proverbs 6:16-17, 19—“These six things doeth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination to Him. . .a lying tongue. . .a false witness that speaketh lies”

Psalms 51:6—“Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.”

Psalms 58:3—“The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.”

Jeremiah 9:3-6

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2. His Speech May Characterized By Foulness!

“ . . .their throat is an open sepulchre. . . ”

That is, their speech is corrupt.

a. It Is Damaging.

Psalm 140:3—“They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent; adders poison is under their lips.”

Romans 3:13—“The poison of asps is under their lips.”

James 3:8—“But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil full of deadly poison.”

b. It Is Blasphemous.

Psalm 10:7—His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue is mischief and vanity.”

Romans 3:14—“Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.”

James 3:9-10

3. His Speech May Be Characterized By Flattery!

“ . . .they flatter with their tongue. . . ”

Flatter—“smooth.” Smooth talkers whose intent is to manipulate others.

Matthew 15:11, 18-20

The Sinner’s Words Reveals His Heart!

B. The Sinner’s Walk Reveals His Heart! (Romans 3:15-17)

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Also listed in the things that the LORD hates and that are an abomination to him found in *Proverbs 6:17-18—“ . . .hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations feet that be swift in running to mischief.”*

Isaiah 59:7-8 (A seven-fold manifestation of their hearts)

1. Their Feet Run To Evil!

i.e. In a hurry to do evil things.

2. They Make Haste To Shed Innocent Blood!

3. Their Thoughts Are Thoughts Of Iniquity!

4. Wasting And Destruction Are In Their Paths!

5. The Way Of Peace They Know Not!

6. There Is No Judgment In Their Goings!

i.e. Lawless

7. They Have Made Them Crooked Paths!

The Sinner’s Words...Walk...Reveal His Heart!

C. The Sinner’s Ways Reveals His Heart! (Romans 3:18)

“ . . .There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

Psalm 36:1—“The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes.”

WE NEED TO LOOK IN THE HEART OF THE SINNER!

II. WE NEED TO LOOK IN OUR OWN HEART!

Why do we need to look in our own heart?

“The heart is deceitful above all things. . .” (Jeremiah 17:9)

At any moment our life here might be over!

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We need to be ready to stand before God!

It is easy to look at someone else's ways and judge them, but

how about us?

What about **our words?** What do our words reveal about us?

What about **our walk?** The paths we go, what do they reveal about us?

What about **our ways?** Does our life show that we fear God or not?

Can you pray the prayer that David prayed in *Psalm 139:23-24*?

“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

In looking at our own heart:

It needs to be an **humble look!** Pride will keep us from dealing with what we know we need to deal with!

It needs to be an **honest look!** We can fool ourselves into thinking we are more righteous than we really are!

A. We Need To Make Sure That We Are Saved!

2 Corinthians 13:5–6—“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”

B. We Need To Make Sure That We Use A Right Standard Of Judgment!

2 Corinthians 10:12—“For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.”

C. We Need To Realize Our Great Potential For Evil!

1 Corinthians 10:12—“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”

Abraham used deceit and half-truths!

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Lot vexed his righteous soul with the deeds of the Sodomites and even offered his daughters to immoral men to protect the guests under his roof!

Moses was a murderer!

David was an adulterer and murderer!

Each of us needs to realize our great potential for evil!

WE NEED TO LOOK IN THE HEART OF THE SINNER!

WE NEED TO LOOK IN OUR OWN HEART!

III. WE NEED TO LOOK IN TO GETTING RIGHT WITH GOD!

A. Those Who Are Lost Need To Get Saved!

Isaiah 55:6-7—“Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”

1. You'll Not Find Him Without Him Drawing You.

2. You'll Not Find Him After You Die.

B. Those Who Are Saved Need To Get Right!

1 Corinthians 11:31–32—“For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord that we should not be judged.”

Hebrews 12:5—“. . .despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.”