Could We Be Rebels?

Intro: Jeremiah 6:10-16 “To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it. Therefore I am full of the fury of the LORD; I am weary with holding in: I will pour it out upon the children abroad, and upon the assembly of young men together: for even the husband with the wife shall be taken, the aged with him that is full of days. And their houses shall be turned unto others, with their fields and wives together: for I will stretch out my hand upon the inhabitants of the land, saith the LORD. For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD. Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.”

To read this passage of scripture, knowing the goodness and patience of God, should make us angry. We say, “Why would anyone say ‘no’ to God, when He promises them rest for their souls?” We think this is open rebellion!

1. Do we have anything to learn? Rom. 15:4 “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”

2. Are we willing to stand in the old paths and walk in the good way?

3. There are many things we do today that show our disrespect for God’s word.

I. Do We Realize Our Inadequacy?

A. Man leads himself to death; Pro. 14:12 “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”

B. Man cannot even guide himself; Jer. 10:23 “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”

C. The conscience is not a safe guide.

1. Conscience:
   a. Con means “with”
   b. Science means “knowledge”
   c. Therefore, conscience is a knowledge that one has from within.

2. Our minds may have been taught improperly.
   a. Jacob felt bad even though his knowledge was based on a lie; Genesis 37.
   b. A mother feels bad today when a son is thought to be lost in battle.

3. Paul had a good conscience
   a. Acts 23:1 “And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.”
   b. Yet he had persecuted the church; Acts 22:4 “And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.”
   c. His conscience was not a safe guide.

II. Do We Respect God’s Word As Adequate?

A. The Bible is all we need.
   1. 2 Pet. 1:3-4 “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: “Whereby are given
unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

a. We have all things regarding life
   (1) Life in the present; John 10:10 “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”
   (2) Eternal life; John 3:16-17 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 

b. We have all things regarding godliness (piety, reverence, or respect toward God)

2. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

a. We can be a “man of God”
   (1) Through the new birth; John 3:3, 5 “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God…. 5Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”
   (2) Gal. 3:26-27 “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

b. We can be “perfect” or complete (we can be everything that God wants us to be)

c. We can be completely furnished to every good work.

3. We can learn how; 2 Tim. 3:15 “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

B. Our nature enters in sometimes.

1. Moses argued with God; Exo. 3-4
2. We say “God show me a sign.”
3. Even if a man came from the dead, some would not believe; Luke 16:30-31 “And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.”

III. INDIFFERENCE IS A FORM OF REBELLION

A. Indifference towards sin

1. 1 Cor. 5
2. He was a fornicator.
   a. Such fornication that was not even named among the Gentiles; 1 Cor. 5:1 “It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father’s wife.”
   b. Jesus taught this was a sin; Mat. 15:19 “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:”
   c. Paul calls it a sin against the body; 1 Cor. 6:18 “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.”
3. They were glorying in this sin; 1 Cor. 5:2 “And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.”
B. Indifference towards serving God
   1. Rev. 3:15-17 “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 
      16So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. 
      17Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not 
      that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:” 
      a. Notice that these are Christians. 
      b. They wanted to sit “on the fence.” 
      c. They thought they had need of nothing. 
   2. No one can be indifferent; Mat. 12:30 “He that is not with me is against me; and he that 
      gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.”

IV. DO WE OVERCOME THIS ATTITUDE?

A. Believe the word.
   1. It is accurate, adequate, and relevant.
   2. We are going to be judged by it; John 12:48-50 “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my 
      words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. 
      49For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I 
      should say, and what I should speak. 50And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever 
      I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.”

B. Succumb to God’s will.
   1. Jeremiah told the people they would find rest for their souls. 
   2. Jesus tells us this also; Mat. 11:28-30 “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, 
      and I will give you rest. 29Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: 
      and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” 
      a. In response to Jeremiah was “We will not walk therein”. 
      b. What will you say to Christ?

Conclusion: Realizing our inadequacy, our instability and our independence upon God, let us 
make a decision now to examine our lives and be willing to make necessary changes to conform to 
God’s way.