

Jan. 10, 2016

- Genesis 18-19:29 – The promise of a son for Abraham; Sodom and Gomorrah.
- Matthew 13:1-43 – Four parables of the Lord and hardening of the heart.
- Ecclesiastes 4:1-7 – The vanity of the temporal only life.

Reflections:

Genesis 18-19:29. Gays and liberals often argue that the sin of Sodom was inhospitality rather than homosexuality. They point to the isagogics of the Canaanite custom that guaranteed protection for those coming under one's roof. Lot reflects on this in Gen. 19:8. So, Lot offered his daughters in an attempt in order to satisfy the angry crowd in order to protect the lives of the visitors who had come under his roof, as the theory goes. These liberals and gays also provide some exegetical proof in that the word "know" (yada) simply means to know without sexual connotation (as per Psa. 139:1). So, by exegesis and isagogics, liberal scholars say that this had nothing to do with sex whatsoever. However, as we have learned, the meaning is in the Text and not to be determined by isagogics or how a word may be used in other passages (such as Psa. 139:1). There are 6 contextual reasons that the reference is most assuredly to homosexuality: 1) While it is true that the Hebrew word "to know" does not necessarily mean to have sex with, it is the context that determines the meaning of the word, not the word itself. Besides, 10 of the 12 times this word is used in Genesis, it refers to sexual intercourse; 2) the context shows that "to know" refers to sex in that Lot said that his two virgin daughters had not "known" a man, which obviously refers to sex; 3) the entire context is about wickedness of the city, sexual wickedness, that the two daughters were to appease (19:8); 4) "to know" cannot mean simply "get acquainted with" because it is equated with a wicked thing (19:7); 5) why offer the virgin daughters to appease them if their intents was not sexual?; and 6) God had already determined to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah as Gen. 18:16-22 indicates, even before the incident in 19:8. In other words, God had pronounced judgment upon these cities for the sins they had already committed, namely homosexuality—not for some sin of inhospitality that had not yet occurred.

Matthew 13:1-43. While parables are often employed to make truth more perspicuous by comparing it to more tangible things, this is not always the case as indicated in Matt. 13:15, which teaches that parables are often given to hide God's truth. Before one jumps to the conclusion that God arbitrarily hides truth by hardening hearts, one should reflect on the nature of the four soils in the following context, the four receptions of the Word: the path, the rocky ground, the thorns, and the good soil. Reflect on the types of soil and ask yourself which category you find yourself in. Do you really seek to understand the Word of God or is the Word hardening you because of neglect or distractions of the world? If you really love God's Word, then you are in the category of the good soil and becoming a stronger and better person. If not, you need to make adjustments to stop the hardening of your heart.

Ecclesiastes 4:1-7. What a dreary view of human life when viewed from only the temporal perspective ("life under the sun"). This passages reminds me of the atheist Jean Paul Sartre, who said "Life has no meaning the moment you lose the illusion of being eternal" and 'human existence is nauseating.' Of course he also said, "That God does not exist, I cannot deny, That my whole being cries out for God I cannot forget." Such is a life without God – it is worst than a nightmare. Solomon is making us think of what life would be without God and the eternal perspective. Let us never take God and eternal perspective for granted.

In 'Ehyeh,
Pastor Don