

Sermon Study Questions

Sunday, February 15, 2026

1. Read Isaiah 30
2. Throughout this chapter Isaiah differentiates between the way the spiritual man and the natural man sees, thinks, and acts. What is meant by the spiritual man and the natural man and what distinguishes them from one another? Read 1 Cor.2:14.
3. In v.1 the Lord rebukes Judah, saying, "Ah, stubborn children...who carry out a plan, but not mine." What is the plan the Lord is referring to here? Why was God so opposed to this plan?
4. What should Judah have done in this situation as they faced the Assyrian threat? Read Leviticus 26:3-6 to help you answer.
5. In v.9 the Lord says of Judah that they "were unwilling to hear the instruction of the Lord," but they were "saying to the seers, 'Do not see,' and to the prophets, 'Do not prophesy what is right;' but speak to us smooth things; prophesy illusions, leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel." What is it that Judah was wanting from the preachers of their day? What parallel do you see in our own day?
6. In v.12-14 the Lord says the following, "Because you despise this word and trust in oppression and perverseness and rely on them, therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach in a high wall, bulging out and about to collapse, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant; and its breaking is like that of a potter's vessel that is smashed so ruthlessly that among its fragments not a shard is found with which to take fire from the hearth, or to dip up water out of the cistern." What is the lesson this analogy is meant to communicate?

7. How does the Lord respond to Judah's obstinate and unrepentant attitude? Is this what you expect from the Lord? What practical lesson do you learn from this?

8. The blessings we under the New Covenant receive for obedience to God's Law are far different from those that Israel received under the Old (Mosaic) Covenant (cf. Lev.26:3-6). How would you describe the blessings we receive now?

9. What practical application can you make from this text/sermon?

10. Pray!

Reading of Law: Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Prayer of Confession:

Our Father in Heaven, we come before you in Jesus' name. There is none like you in heaven above or earth beneath. This morning in hearing your Law we are again confronted with our own sin, realizing that we as your people fall short of your glory and the standard of perfection you require of all. We confess that we fail to trust you with all our heart, but that we often struggle to trust you and entrust ourselves fully to you. We tend to believe that we can figure things out on our own and are prone to lean on our own understanding, thinking that we are sufficient in ourselves to deal with the issues of life. We likewise fail to acknowledge you in all our ways, but to our detriment we take matters into our hands. Deep inside this reflects our pride and desire for independence when you call us to walk humbly with you. Please forgive us. Please also help us to trust you more fully and walk more faithfully with you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness: Romans 3:23-25

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his

blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

Heidelberg Catechism: Lord's Day 24

Q. 62. But why cannot our good works be the whole or part of our righteousness before God?

A. Because the righteousness which can stand before the judgment seat of God must be perfect throughout and entirely conformable to the divine law, but even our best works in this life are all imperfect and defiled with sin.

[Gal. 3:10](#); [Deut. 27:26](#). [Isa. 64:6](#); *[Jas. 2:10](#); *[Phil. 3:12](#).

Q. 63. Do our good works merit nothing, even though it is God's will to reward them in this life and in that which is to come?

A. The reward comes not of merit, but of grace.

[Lk. 17:10](#); *[Rom. 11:6](#).

Q. 64. But does not this doctrine make men careless and profane?

A. No, for it is impossible that those who are implanted into Christ by true faith, should not bring forth fruits of thankfulness.

[Matt. 7:18](#); *[Rom. 6:1-2](#); *[Jn. 15:5](#).

NT Reading: Luke 15:11-32

And Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he

went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹ And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"