

Isaiah 51:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.

Analysis

The address to those with 'my law in your heart' describes true believers - internal transformation, not mere external conformity (Jeremiah 31:33). The command 'fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings' calls for courage grounded in divine approval over human opinion. Those with God's word internalized can withstand social pressure because identity rests in God, not peer acceptance.

Historical Context

Exiles faced mockery from Babylonians and later opposition rebuilding Jerusalem (Nehemiah 4:1-3). The internalized law sustained faithful remnant through ridicule. Same principle applies to Christians facing secular culture's contempt.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does having God's law 'in your heart' (internalized Word) provide courage to withstand cultural opposition?
2. What reproaches or revilings are you tempted to avoid by compromising biblical standards?

Interlinear Text

שׁׁמַע	אָלִי	יְדַעַי	צְדָקָה	עַם	תֹּוֹתֶת
Hearken	H413	unto me ye that know	righteousness	the people	is my law
H8085		H3045	H6664	H5971	H8451
בְּלֹבֶם	אֵל	תִּירְאֹו	חֶרֶף תְּ	אֲבָשׁ	מִמְגַדְפָתָם
in whose heart	H408	fear	ye not the reproach	of men	of their revilings
H3820		H3372	H2781	H582	H1421
אֵל	תִּתְּפַחַדְוָה				
H408	neither be ye afraid				
	H2865				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 37:31 (Word): The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.

Matthew 5:11 (Evil): Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Ezekiel 2:6 (Word): And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house.

1 Peter 4:14 (Evil): If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

Isaiah 51:1 (Righteousness): Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.

Acts 5:41 (Parallel theme): And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

Psalms 40:8 (Word): I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

Jeremiah 1:17 (Parallel theme): Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them.

2 Corinthians 3:3 (Parallel theme): Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

1 Peter 4:4 (Evil): Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

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