

Title: Right with God (Jehovah Tsidkenu)

Text: Jeremiah 23:1-6

Target: Righteousness is not achieved; it's received.

- I. **Righteousness Rejected:** *"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!" declares the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: 'You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the Lord.'"* (23:1-2)
 - A. **Shepherds Failed Morally:**
 1. **Apostatized from God:** *"The shepherds are senseless and do not inquire of the Lord;"* (Jeremiah 10:21)
 2. **Abandoned the people of God:** *"Woe to the shepherds of Israel who only take care of themselves!"* (Ezekiel 34:2-3)
 3. **Abused the Position from God:** *"Her leaders judge for a bribe."* (Micah 3:11)
 4. **Altered the Standards of God:** *"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil,"* (Isaiah 5:20)
 - B. **People Suffered Spiritually:** *"The lips of a priest should guard knowledge... But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction."* (Malachi 2:7-9)
- I. **Righteousness Restored:** *"Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the Lord."* (Jeremiah 23:3-4)
 - A. **Gathers Sheep:** *"Gather" "Driven" "Bring"*
 - **Ezekiel 34:16:** *"I will search for the lost and bring back the strayed."*
 - B. **Cares for Sheep:** *"fruitful and multiply"*
 1. **Removes Fear:** *"fear no more"*
 2. **Removes Discouragement:** *"nor be dismayed"*
 3. **Removes Concern:** *"neither shall any be missing"*
- II. **Righteousness Revealed:** *"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land."* (Jeremiah 23:5)
 - A. **Righteous Branch:** *"righteous branch"*
 - **Isaiah 11:1:** *"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit."* (**Read Vs. 2-5**)
 - **Zechariah 6:12-13:** *"Behold, the man whose name is the Branch...He shall build the temple of the LORD...He shall bear royal honor, and shall sit and rule on His throne."*
 - B. **Reining King:** *"reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land."* (Jeremiah 23:5)

- **Daniel 7:13-14:** *"And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed."*

III. Righteousness Received: *"In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'" (Jeremiah 23:6)*

A. Imputed Righteousness: "our"

1. **Christ knew no Sin:** *"without blemish or spot"* (1 Peter 1:18-19)
2. **Christ committed No Sin:** *"He committed no sin"* (1 Peter 2:22)
3. **Christ took my Sin:** *"appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin."* (1 John 3:5)
4. **Christ gave me His righteousness from my Sin:** *"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."* (2 Cor. 5:21)

B. Forever Righteous: "righteousness"

1. **Given By Grace:** *"and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,"* (Romans 3:24)
2. **Received as a Gift:** *"and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith,"* (Philippians 3:9)
3. **Eternally Guaranteed:** *"Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn?"* (Romans 8:33-34)

Takeaway: God doesn't see you through the lens of your past. He sees you through the righteousness of His Son.