

Yieldedness is a personal matter. It is the will of the individual in giving place to God. In this sense it may seem to cut across our "independence" or "autonomous" being. But for all parties it is essential as the prophets regularly remind us. In chapter 29 (Jeremiah) it was important for Jeremiah to be yielded. He had an unpopular message which had already caused him to be regarded as a traitor. The reception accorded him had been a mockery. But the yielded prophet would continue to give that message inspite of temptations that might have been his to do otherwise. And, as with other cases of fidelity, prophecy teaches us that those who are yielded to God's will are blessed of God. When the picture is complete, they stand rewarded.

The king was in no different expectations but he was not morally inclined. Zedekiah was an "uncle-king" and so not looked upon by many as the "true king." He needed to zealously guard his popularity and it was more in his interest, or so he thought, to push for programs that the people wanted. He was not a strong man and, while trying to help Jeremiah at times, could not face possible rejection as could the prophet. But he was expected to be yielded. The fact that he was not would cost him throne, life, children, sight and all that he really wanted. Prophetically it was expected that he would be yielded or have nothing.

Likewise the people. Although at this time there was much unbelief and unhappiness in the moral structure of the nation, it was nevertheless expected that the people would be yielded (were supposed to be yielded). Jeremiah's constant prediction is: "If you yield to the Lord's will He will bless and care for you and the end result will be your betterment." The hardness of heart that characterized the nation at this time prevented that good sort of response. But where men were yielded they were blessed...where they were not, they were in trouble.

Now usually by this time our hearers are tired of the word "yieldedness." But, for the professed believer, it is the first order of business. God's Word calls for it and our lives both need and demand it.