

JEREMIAH PART III

APRIL 23-24, 2022

INTRODUCTION

- Jeremiah lived during some of the worst years in Israel's history.
- The story is all about learning to say yes to God.
- Jeremiah had to go tell them what they sowed they were going to reap.
- God was about to discipline Israel by sending them into captivity for 70 years in Babylon.

I. PRODIGAL LIVES

- By the time we get around chapters 15-20 of Jeremiah judgement has begun to fall.
- Droughts and famines have hit the land.
- Jeremiah 17:5-10, This is what the Lord says: "Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind...⁷ Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord...⁸ For he will be like a tree planted by the water that extends its roots by a stream, and does not fear when the heat comes..."
- Amazing things happen when we trust in difficult times.
- Why do we chose to do wrong things? Vs. 17
- ⁹"The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it? ¹⁰I, the Lord, search the heart..."
- Our hearts deceive us, they tell us what we want to hear not what we need to hear.
- When they do we make bad decisions...
- They break God's heart - Jeremiah 14:17

II. ISRAEL'S COVENANT WITH GOD

- Covenants are not about equality, but commitment.

- God rescued them from slavery and then set a covenant in place with them.
- When Israel surrenders to God He covers and protects them.
- We lose nothing and gain everything with Jesus. His love is not conditional.
- Which makes it easy for us to lose our way and not be committed to Him.

III. TOUGH QUESTIONS FOR WANDERING HEARTS

- Luke 8:4-15 - Parable of the Sower
- Some will look like believers and they are not.
- Parable of the prodigal son, story of how God sees us as we wander.
- Luke 15:11-32 - This guy wanders away, but clearly he is still in the family.
- God saw Israel and reached towards her through Jeremiah for 40 years!!!

IV. HE'S ALWAYS READY TO HEAL, RESTORE AND RENEW

- Jeremiah 18:1-4, "...the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter..."
- The clay was spoiled, but the potter wasn't done with it...he redeemed it! He remade it...he restored it.
- Jeremiah 18:5-8, "...⁶"O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done?..."
- It is always God's desire to heal.
- Psalm 138:8, "The Lord will perfect that which concerns me; your mercy, O Lord, endures forever..."
- Philippians 1:6, "...He who began a good work among you will complete it by the day of Christ Jesus."