

THE ROOT OF THE MATTER

Jeremiah 17:5–13 | Nick Marrero | September 13, 2026

INTRODUCTION

Jeremiah 17 takes us beneath outward behavior and exposes the deeper issue: **where we place our trust reveals what is happening in our hearts**. Judah had turned from God and trusted in people, possessions, and their own strength. Jeremiah calls us to examine our own hearts and discover where true hope is found.

BIG IDEA

Where our trust is placed reveals the condition of our hearts, which in turn reveals our need for Yahweh, our only hope.

1. WHERE IS MY _____ PLACED?

Jeremiah 17:5–8

- Trusting ultimately in man turns the heart **away from the LORD**.
- Misplaced trust leaves us like a **bush in the desert** without a life-giving source.
- The one who trusts in the LORD is like a **tree planted by water**.
- God does not promise the absence of drought, He promises to **sustain us through it**.

The blessing isn't the absence of drought; the blessing is having your roots in the right place when the drought comes.

2. WHAT DOES MY _____ REVEAL?

Jeremiah 17:9–11

- The human heart is **deceitful** and desperately sick.
- Our hearts cannot serve as the final authority for truth.
- The LORD alone fully **searches and knows the heart**.
- Money, abilities, relationships, appearance, and possessions can never provide the security that belongs to God alone.

3. WHO IS MY _____ IN?

Jeremiah 17:12–13

- Yahweh is not merely the One who **gives** hope, He **is our hope**.
- The LORD is the **fountain of living water**.
- Everything we trust in apart from God will eventually fail us.
- Our ultimate hope is fulfilled in **Jesus Christ**, who saves sinners and sustains those who trust in Him.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 17:5–13 • Psalm 1:3 • Psalm 40:4 • Psalm 139:23–24 • John 4:13–14 • 1 Timothy 1:1

TAKE IT HOME

Where are my roots?

What am I tempted to trust in for security besides God?

What does that misplaced trust reveal about my heart?

Where do I need to stop relying upon myself and deliberately trust Christ?

The question isn't whether the drought will come. The question is where your roots are when it does.