

HOW DO YOU MEND A BROKEN HEART?

sifting for answers in the book of Jeremiah

A Crushed Covenant

And when the people ask, 'Why has the LORD our God done all this to us?' you will tell them, 'As you have forsaken me and served foreign gods in your own land, so now you will serve foreigners in a land not your own.' "Announce this to the house of Jacob and proclaim it in Judah: Hear this, you foolish and senseless people, who have eyes but do not see, who have ears but do not hear: Should you not fear me?" declares the LORD. "Should you not tremble in my presence? I made the sand a boundary for the sea, an everlasting barrier it cannot cross. The waves may roll, but they cannot prevail; they may roar, but they cannot cross it. But these people have stubborn and rebellious hearts; they have turned aside and gone away. They do not say to themselves, 'Let us fear the LORD our God, who gives autumn and spring rains in season, who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest.' Your wrongdoings have kept these away; your sins have deprived you of good. "Among my people are wicked men who lie in wait like men who snare birds and like those who set traps to catch men. Like cages full of birds, their houses are full of deceit; they have become rich and powerful and have grown fat and sleek. Their evil deeds have no limit; they do not plead the case of the fatherless to win it, they do not defend the rights of the poor. Should I not punish them for this?" declares the LORD. "Should I not avenge myself on such a nation as this?"

JEREMIAH 5:19-29

"Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

MICAH 6:7b-8

"A Crushed Covenant"

In the Bible, "covenant" is the foundation for all critical relationships, an agreed upon basis for relating that, when pursued mutually, will bring life. Throughout the book of Jeremiah the prophet attaches the brokenness of people, and their coming judgment, to the broken foundation of their relationship with God. There are many ways to break covenant. In marriage, in family, in faith we can destroy the foundation of our relationships with betrayal, complacency, deceit, abuse, ignorance, inattention and abandonment. The people of Judah were guilty of all these things and more in the lead up to the Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem and the kingdom of Judah. In our search for how you repair such brokenness of heart, there are four essential things we must re-embrace:

1. fidelity
2. knowledge
3. accountability
4. destiny

