



## DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Sermon Series:** Dark Prophet Part 7

**Sermon Title:** Viewpoint

**Speaker/ Date:** Scott McCrea/ March 10, 2019

### Jeremiah 27-29

How do you view God? It's an important question, because

**Big idea:** THE WAY YOU VIEW GOD SHAPES YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

3 actions that God performs that prove His love for His children and allow you to hear His heart. The first action that God performs is that God:

#### 1. **RELENTLESSLY PURSUES His children**

##### Jeremiah 27:1

God pursued Israel through 41 kings and 1 queen. Of those leaders, only 6 of them remained faithful to God throughout their reign- the rest rebelled against God and worshiped other false gods. Time and time again – God pursued them –but time and again they refused to turn to Him. In **Jeremiah 2:11** you can almost hear the frustration and grief in God's words.

**Exodus 34:6** says God is “**compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,**”

God pursued Israel the same way a loving parent pursues a rebellious teenager and longs to be in a trusting loving relationship with them again. God pursues us with that same relentless love. God the father sent his own son to die on a cross for our sins so we can be in relationship with him - that's the extent that He is willing to go to.

God pursues those He loves – but there is a point where he reaches His limit. Where he says “enough is enough”. As any good parent should. And when that happens, He:

#### 2. **STRATEGICALLY DISCIPLINES his children**

This isn't a careless, haphazard, reactionary discipline- His discipline is intimately specific to the situation. Parents you know which form of discipline is the most effective for each child. God knows what will work.

After Israel refuses to repent- God disciplines them in such a way to eradicate the idolatry and wickedness in their lives. God tells them that They are going to be subject to Nebuchadnezzar. **Jeremiah 27:6**

Then in vs 8 He tells them not to fight against or resist Nebuchadnezzar or he will increase their discipline. They resist Nebuchadnezzar and he takes Israel captive- back to his land. And this was quite shocking. They were now in exile- forced to leave the land that was linked with their identity.

God tells them to go ahead and settle into Babylon because they're going to be there a while. **Jeremiah 29:5,6**. God knew their focus needed to be on figuring out what got them there in the first place- not on creating an exit strategy for how they would get back to their home land.

If there is any habitual sin in your life- keep in mind that every day that passes you are getting closer to God's discipline. God disciplines His children. It's important that you understand that He does it out of love. **Hebrews 12:5-6, 10-11**.

### **3. INTIMATELY ENCOURAGES**

In Jeremiah 29 Jeremiah sends a letter to the Israelites living in Babylon. See, because god loves them, god sets the limit for the duration of their exile. **Jeremiah 29:10**

He's in control the whole time and knows exactly what they need to be back with him. And he encourages them by giving them a promise that He will bring them back home. **Jeremiah 29:11-14**

God tells Israel that His plans are to give them a hope and a future. He knows that within their exile they will eventually seek God and return to Him, and He will not abandon them.

God promises us that when we turn from our sins and turn to Him, He will give us a hope and a future. **1 Peter 1:3,4**. God promises us we are secure. If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, then Jesus tells you that He has you in His hand, and the father has you in His hand. **John 10:27-30**

The truth is- The personal, relational, loving creator wants to be in a relationship with you. And He proves that truth by His actions God wants you to spend eternity with him and experience the wonder of Heaven.

### Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Is there any habitual sin that you are living with that brings you closer and closer to God's discipline? Share if comfortable.**
- **Do you find it easy or difficult to view God as a loving Father?**
- **Explain a season of your life when you saw God relentlessly pursue you.**
- **God wants you to spend eternity with him and experience the wonder of Heaven. Describe what you envision heaven to be like. Are you excited or hesitant to go?**
- **What are some common misconceptions that people have about God's character?**
- **How does a person's personal view of God affect his or her relationship with Him?**
- **God holds you securely in His hand. How does that truth encourage you in life?**