

Jeremiah 24-25 – 18 May 2014

Dr. W.G. Scroggie is quoted as saying, “The flesh may be defined as ‘man's fallen nature as under the power of sin.’ It is the evil principle in man's nature, **the traitor within** who is in league with the attackers without. The flesh provides the tinder on which the devil's temptations can kindle.

We are born and live with such contradiction within. The very things that the flesh wants is to our harm.

Jeremiah 24-25 present to us life's three great contradictions and we'll talk about the answers to them in the end if you want to do that.

Read 24:1-10 – The People's Choice

- God had told them to submit to their punishment that was coming thru Babylon.
- They had three choices
 - Do what God said
 - Keep doing what they were doing
 - Try to run away from God's judgment

- The 1st great contradiction in life: “The more you seek freedom your way, the more you became enslaved to yourself.”
- We grow up in bondage to our parent’s will, our need for a job, etc.
 - Physical
 - We get a job for money and now we’re enslaved to a boss.
 - We get away from our job for a while to avoid the slave-master boss and we become enslaved to the need of money all over again!
 - Spiritual
 - We do good to try being right with God.
 - Only to realize there’s more good that we’re not doing.

Read 25:1-11 – The Period Chosen

- Vs 1-7
 - Vs 1-3 Jeremiah faithfully executed prophet’s office towards an unthankful people for 23yrs!

- Read II Chr 36:15 – b/c He's a **personal**, compassionate God.
- A good test is when someone is reproving them for sin, how do they respond?
 - “Oh, stop judging me!”
 - “This is God’s compassionate correction towards me.”
- Vs 4-7 Our works are just distraction from what God really wants, which is our personal worship.
 - You cannot serve two masters (Matt 6:24)
 - Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38)
- **The 2nd great contradiction in life: “The more you seek a personal relationship (with false gods) the more you have impersonal relationships (like with Jeremiah).”**
 - We grow up saying, whom do I gain knowledge from and whom do I serve.
 - We choose one and isolate another.

- Vs 8-11

- The compassion of God: He set AN END DATE.
 - Read Jer 29:10-11
 - That he set a time period means that there is a date set to return to the land!
- All God wanted was for the people to listen to Him with a heart to obey His Word.
 - Daniel is a good example of this in Dan 9:2

Read 25:12-29 – The Perpetrator's Chastisement

- Vs 12-29

- If it's time of Judah to be judged, surely it is time for all the surrounding nations to be judged.
- The cup of wine is a symbol of the wars that God would use to bring this judgment (vs 16)

Read 25:30-38

- We now go deep into the future
- All those that have rebelled against the Lord will be judged.

- This constant of sin brings death, sin brings death.
- **The 3rd great contradiction in life: “You have eternity in your heart but finality in your experience.”**
- We grow up dreaming into the depths of eternity but all we see around us is death...ending.
 - The longer we live the more ending we see.
 - Relationships ending
 - Marriages ending
 - Life ending
 - But there's something in the heart of each of us that says, 'there's has to be a God that knows and sees and cares and will always be!'

The Answers

- **The 1st great contradiction in life: “The more you seek freedom your way, the more you became enslaved to yourself.”**
 - Remember they could choose to submit to Babylon, flee or stay in Israel.

- We're in bondage to do what the flesh wants even though it's the very thing that will injury us the most!
- Cookie Story:
 - Todd makes cookies shares with Fred
 - We need to stop, let's close the box.
 - Tie it with string, put on high shelf.
 - Give to the birds.
 - Fred says, "There we have willpower."
 - Todd says, "You can keep your willpower, I'm going home to make a cake."
 - We laugh but, now he's wasted time and cookies, and he's still going to get fat by eating the cake.
- God says, "**I allow you to choose freedom.**"
 - By giving us a new nature that can war against and beat the flesh.
- **The 2nd great contradiction in life: "The more you seek a personal relationship (with false gods) the more you have impersonal relationships (like with Jeremiah)."**

- Remember they choose to worship false gods and reject and spitefully used all those who were trying to help them.
- God says, **“I give you personal teachers.**
 - God has given us His very personal Word!
 - Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us.
- **The 3rd great contradiction in life: “You have eternity in your heart but finality in your experience.”**
 - Remember that God laid out their judgment to come and all they experience is death and finality.
 - God says, **“I give you myself, I tell you the end from the beginning.”**
 - **So you can dream, so you can know me.**
 - **Joh_15:15** Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

In Conclusion

- We have these problems we face:
 - Personal individual but world treats you impersonally
 - Eternity in your heart but finality in your experience.
 - The more you seek freedom to more you become enslaved to yourself.
- God say look at Me...look at Me, I am the answer.
 - I'll give you a **personal relationship** with Myself, the **eternal God**, and I'll give you the strength to **truly be free**.