

Jeremiah 34 – 13 July 2014

How many of you remember what Pastor Bonin preached on back on Christmas Day? How about on Easter? How many of you remember what we read in Jeremiah last week? haha

You may not remember the topics or the passages, but what we remember is when our beliefs change.

Thru circumstances and events our beliefs are challenged to be changed or strengthened.

Example: A soccer player may not believe that there are no offsides on a throw in...until it happens to him in a game. He should have just read that rule book and believed it.

When God's Word challenges us to change our belief and we do so, then we may not remember who said it or when but we remember that a part of what we trust in changed.

My example; forgiveness – I thought, “we forgive b/c it helps us not hold on to bitterness.” God has taught me that, “we forgive b/c He forgave us, and as one of its benefits it helps us stay clear of bitterness.”

The point of hearing the Word of God is so that we can respond by agreeing with it, and then walk into a changed life in gratitude for His love.

The Word of God is powerless unless we let in seep into every dry crevasse of our hard heart.

Chapter 34

- Vs 1-7
 - The 1st part of this repentance is that we have to actually respond in agreement with God.
 - Message against Zedekiah: In the heat of Babylon attacking, what did God expect Zedekiah to do? Stop, change direction and repent? ...YES
 - Did God expect Nineveh to repent? Yes and they did, even if Jonah wasn't expecting it.

- Jonah's message: Jonah 3:4 – "Yet 40 days and Nineveh shall be overthrown."
- The Assyrian king's answer: Jonah 3:9 – "Who can tell if God will turn and repent and turn away from His fierce anger that we perish not?"
- Being a King leading a nation in one direction, is it even possible to change direction and repent?YES.
 - Look at Josiah in II Kin 22:8-20 esp 11, 18-20.
 - This was in his 18th year: he was 26 y/o
 - Regardless of all the history of idolatry around him, he decided to change.
 - Regardless of the peer pressure.
 - Regardless of the history of wrong-doing.
 - Regardless of economic loss.
 - Regardless of loss of stature.
 - The Lord can change everything based on our repentance, if he so chooses.

- The 2nd part of this repentance is that we actually walk into a changed life.
 - I Kin 23
 - Vs 1 – Gathered the leaders and publically said, “I’m changing!”
 - Vs 3 – Publically told the Lord, “I’m changing!”
 - Vs 4-24 – He actually walked in repentance!
 - Vs 25 – The Lord says, “This is just what I wanted!”
- Vs 8-22 –Message against the people for going back on their repentant acts.
 - Vs 8-11 – They obeyed this law in honor of God but then when Babylon turned their attention to the advancing Egyptians, they went away from their repentant acts.
 - Vs 12-16
 - They said that they set them free, but then went back on their word and took their slaves back.

- They honored God with this law...and then immediately took it back!
 - Vs 17-22
 - **The 3rd part of this repentance is that we respond out of gratitude to God not from selfishness.**
 - Don't try and use repentant as a “good luck charm” or a “get out of jail free card”.
 - How many times did King Saul “repent” to David when David got Saul in a bad spot, but Saul’s repentance wasn’t true.
 - Don’t repent to get something from God, that’s not try repentance.
 - You haven’t changed the heart, only the outward acts; you’ll go right back to what the heart wants. (Like taking the slaves back)
 - What shows repentance?
 - Psa 34:18 The LORD *is* nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

The Word of God is powerless unless we let it seep into every dry crevasse of our hard heart.

The point of hearing the Word of God is so that we can respond by agreeing with it, and then walk into a changed life in gratitude for His love.

Don't wait until we're in the flesh sometime tomorrow to confess and repent, take the time now while you're in the Spirit to confess and repent. When sin comes upon you later, you'll be in the flesh and won't repent then.

Be ye doers of God's Word and not hearers only deceiving your own selves. James 1:22

Are you in God's family? My mother and my brethren are these which hear the Word of God and do it! Luke 8:21