

Jeremiah 5-6 – 16 May 2024

“Searching For One”

Introduction

*Jeremiah consistently warned Judah to submit to Babylon for judgment, therefore he was treated as a traitor

*In Chap 1 we saw Jeremiah’s call into the ministry

*In Chap 2 we saw Israel’s fall, in that they not only were messing around w/ other gods, but forsook God

*In Chap 3 & 4 we saw challenge to move forward w/ God or they will be thrown backward by their lusts

*When we hear God’s good guidance thru the Word, we have to choose how we’ll respond to it

*Chap 5-6 finishes the opening sermon of the book

*These chapters show us what God’s looking for in our response to His Word to us

*Even though all around us may fall, we can still turn to God, placing our trust in Him to save us

In light of pending national judgement, today we’ll see 3 things God wants from His people

#1 – God’s searching for one that will hear & fear (Chap 5:1-31)

Read Chap 5:1-2

1. No one is purely seeking truth, even in the greeting “The Lord liveth” there’s hidden motive
 - a. Like saying “Bless your heart” but really meaning ‘well aren’t you as dumb as rocks’
2. Read Psm 51:6 – Desires truth in the inward

Read Vs 3

1. God caused pain to change their hearts
2. Why would God pain them? Read Heb 12:6

Read Vs 4-5

1. So after looking at the poor & uneducated, he turns to the aristocrats of Israel to look for those walking in truth but found none
2. Notice truth will teach us of God’s methods and of future coming judgement
 - a. Where’s their fear of God?

Read Vs 6

1. Most see these animals as metaphorical of the coming invasion, but this could be actual animals risen against Judah in their state of disrepair

Read Vs 7-9

1. God provided good, but they were dissatisfied & ran after more in their lust-worthy of judgement
2. Seems to be connection between spiritual adultery and actual adultery

Read Vs 10-13

1. Why don't disobedience kids of God repent?
 - a. They don't believe God will judge or remove them from their position
 - b. This is pride and lack of the fear of God
2. But notice the mercy of God in saying He won't make a full end to them

Read Vs 14-17

1. B/c they don't believe God will judge their adultery, God will bring Babylon against them
2. Babylon will be allowed of God to destroy the provisions of Judah

Read Vs 18-19

1. This is the primary reason Judah is sent into Babylon, b/c of their idolatry & adultery
2. Now the timing will be for 70 (Jer 25:11) b/c of the missing the Sabbath Days rests for the land

Read Vs 20-25

1. Why should we fear God?
 - a. Vs 22 – He's currently with us
 - b. Vs 22 – He governs all creation
 - c. Vs 24 – He provides for all our food
2. There's a natural connection between walking in sin and it showing its consequences

Read Vs 26-29

1. Now a special note of why judgement is coming b/c there are even in Judah those that make riches from ensnaring & deceiving others
2. Turn to II Pet 2:1-3
3. A people who are completely turned inward

Read Vs 30-31

1. It's not amazing when people commit evil, but when the leaders do it, that's astonishing
 - a. You'll never find a church where all people are living pure lives, but leadership better be
2. Notice the 'people loved having it so'
 - a. Turn to Rom 1:28-32 – 'pleasure in sinners'
 - b. There's a time to speak up against those in life that are leading people away from God

#2 – God's searching for one that will delight in right (Chap 6:1-15)

Read Chap 6:1

1. Benjamin was the only other tribe still with Judah and they're told to flee
2. Destruction is coming from Babylon in north

Read Vs 2-3

1. Shepherds would have been expecting too much to have a beautiful woman of the city
2. Babylon, pictured as shepherd, were eyeing the prize of wonderful Jerusalem

Read Vs 4-5

1. We see the armies of Babylon pitched all around Jerusalem ready to invade day or night

Read Vs 6-8

1. This is God visiting them in a negative way
2. What's worse than God visiting you in a negative way? Vs 8, Him departing from you!
3. Learn from this, don't let the lesson go to waste

Read Vs 9

1. Babylon won't just harvest but will glean down to the very last bit of conquering

Read Vs 10-12

1. What makes God angry is when He gives His good Word and we turn our nose up in revulsion
2. He has no room to allow that to continue

Read Vs 13-15

1. In their heart there is but selfishness & covetousness – notice it's outward affects...
 - a. They only help others to the extent that it doesn't cost them
 - i. Easy to say peace, but not offer real help
 - b. They're not ashamed of their sin b/c they see the joy of sin as what they deserve

#3 – God's searching for one that will align & refine (Chap 6:16-30)

Read Chap 6:16-17

1. The path to true peace and rest is available but they simply reject the truth that it's for their best

Read Vs 18-19

1. In Jer 4:14 God asked, 'How long will they allow vain thought to lodge among them'
 - a. This is natural result–fruit of their thoughts
 - b. God doesn't have to strike out at rebels, He simply has to allow their natural, evil results

Read Vs 20

1. Even the most expensive offerings & works are of no value unless done from a position & heart of submission to God's good will

Read Vs 21

1. Babylon is the stumbling block by which ALL will fall victim

Read Vs 22-26

1. Babylon is rising & fear of them is spreading
2. This isn't just 'the way of the world' or the natural progression of geopolitics
 - a. This is the Lord orchestrating the events of mankind to accomplish His purposes

Read Vs 27-30

1. Jeremiah is set up to be an assayer & tester
 - a. The fire of the Word of God is going out from Jeremiah
 - b. To the pure, it will refine them
 - c. But Israel is found to be like lead consumed

Conclusion

Still today, God is searching for one

1. **One that will hear & fear**
 - a. Receiving God's Word is different than the intake of anything else into our ears & heart
 - b. Do you have the utmost respect for His Words?
2. **One that will delight in right**
 - a. We make choices everyday between helpful and harmful to our souls
 - b. Do you accept the goodness of God's path?
3. **One that will align & refine**
 - a. Challenges in life are opportunities to be refined like metal in the fire
 - b. Do you see the value in struggles as a way to shed the sin of this world that sticks to us?

God is searching for one. Will you be that one?