

Jeremiah 43-45 – 17 August 2014

In 1937 architect Frank Lloyd Wright built a house for industrialist Hibbard Johnson. One rainy evening Johnson was entertaining distinguished guests for dinner when the roof began to leak. The water seeped through directly above Johnson himself, dripping steadily onto his bald head. Irate, he called Wright in Phoenix, Arizona. "Frank," he said, "you built this beautiful house for me and we enjoy it very much. But I have told you the roof leaks, and right now I am with some friends and distinguished guests and it is leaking right on top of my head." Wright's reply was heard by all of the guests. "Well, Hib, why don't you move your chair?"

How many unbelievers do you have in your life that are just plain stubborn?

What can we do to effect in a spiritual way, people that are completely turned off to the Lord? Today's message will us 4 actions to demonstrate towards the stubborn.

Chapter 43

- Vs 1-7
 - They decide not to obey the Lord and flee to Egypt forcing Jeremiah to come along.
 - Vs 2 – Notice that they act as if they're not disobeying God; they just deny that Jeremiah is His servant.
- Vs 8-13
 - Earthly wisdom led them to Egypt, but just as God said, that would be their downfall!
 - Nebu will invade and conquer all.
 - Jeremiah is told to set a physical symbol up to tell the people Nebu will invade.
 - This makes Jeremiah “go out on a limb”...of faith!
 - **The 1st action we can use to reach stubborn people is to do something to demonstrate your faith.**
 - This will demonstrate the difference between us and them, so they

understand that there is a choice to make!

- Jam 2:18
- I Tim 4:12
- If you believe it will happen, do something to act on it.
- This makes it so they can't later deny that the Lord had told them this ahead of time.
- We can do this also. Speak God's promises to others. Tell them:
 - Don't go into Egypt with that gay lifestyle there is danger there, but stay in Judah with a good marriage.
 - Don't go into Egypt with a selfish heart there is danger there, but stay in Judah by being a servant to all.
 - Don't go into Egypt by trusting drugs to save you there is danger there, but stay in Judah trusting God to protect you.
 - Don't go into Egypt by trusting in riches to protect you there is danger there, but stay

in Judah trusting God to give you all things that you need.

- We need to help warn others, that if we flee to Egypt there is a price to pay.

Chapter 44

- Vs 1-6

- God says, “Remember that I promised that I would consume you in Judah if you served other gods? I did what I said I would.
- God always reminds them of His faithfulness to bring about the good...and the bad.

- Vs 7-14

- Nothing has changed, your heart isn't humbled (vs 10), and you're still serving other gods so I'll consume you off this land also.

- Vs 15-19

- They ascribed power in DOING something for the queen of heaven (Ashteroth) rather than ascribing power to God and believe Him.

- B/c when they were doing something for her, “*then they had plenty of victuals and were well and saw no evil.*”
- I know a guy who couldn’t go a day without his “anti-depressant”.....b/c “*then he had plenty of victuals and was well and saw no evil.*”
- Only problem was that the pill was just a placebo.

- You see trying to placate false gods with our efforts is what the flesh does.
 - It’s an absolute waste of time.
 - Our flesh doesn’t want to walk by faith in a direction that doesn’t seem good for us.
- **The 2nd action we can use to reach stubborn people is to demonstrate that your spiritual life is complete and lived in gratitude not searching and lead by rules.**
 - Do all of our spiritual activities for God to honor Him out of gratitude for being right

with Him not because we have to do them to be right with Him.

- Vs 20-23

- Judahites you're wrong, this evil has happened to you b/c you've rejected the Lord's ways.
 - Christians today don't do this.
 - Christians today just say, "I don't want to cram it down their throat."
- **The 3rd action we can use to reach stubborn people is that we need to give a consistent word and example to unbelievers.**
 - I Pet 2:12, 3:1
 - I Cor 7:10-16

- Vs 24-30

- Vs 26 – Swears by His great name! Look out!!
- Vs 28 – Time will tell whose words will stand.

Chapter 45

- Baruch, you think that you have a hard job and grief (vs 3) b/c you have to talk to a disobedient

people, wait until you see the hardship and grief that I put on them FOR their disobedience! (vs 4)

- **The 4th action we can use to reach stubborn people is to always remember our compassion towards them.**
- Our small pain and abuse for witnessing is nothing compared to the eternal trouble that the lost man is in the midst of.
- Baruch wanted to do great things as a popular guy and the Lord says, just be glad that I'm going to spare your life...that's reward enough!
 - Don't get distracted seeking a gift or reward from God, just be grateful for a relationship with the Giver.

Conclusion:

What can we do to effect in a spiritual way, people that are completely turned off to the Lord? Today's message will us 4 actions to demonstrate towards the stubborn.

- The 1st action we can use to reach stubborn people is to **do something to demonstrate your faith.**
- The 2nd action we can use to reach stubborn people is to **demonstrate that your spiritual life is complete and lived in gratitude not searching and lead by rules.**
- The 3rd action we can use to reach stubborn people is that we need to **give a consistent word and example to unbelievers.**
- The 4th action we can use to reach stubborn people is to always **remember our compassion towards them.**

We can do these actions towards even if they never give us a chance to speak to Gospel to them ever again.