

**Group Study Guide**

February 17-18, 2024

Return to Me: Lesson of the Linen Cloth  
Kurt Bjorklund

**MESSAGE NOTES: Jeremiah 13:1-11**

**Jeremiah 13:11** "For as a belt is bound around the waist, so I bound all the people of Israel and all the people of Judah to me," declares the LORD, "to be my people for my renown and praise and honor. But they have not listened."

**Jeremiah 13:8-10** "Then the word of the LORD came to me: "This is what the LORD says: 'In the same way I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem. These wicked people, who refuse to listen to my words, who follow the stubbornness of their hearts and go after other gods to serve and worship them, will be like this belt—completely useless!"

**Isaiah 1:18-20** "'Come now, let us settle the matter,' says the LORD. 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land; but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword.' For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

**John 17:13-19** "'I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified."

## **STUDY GUIDE:**

### **STEP ONE: Icebreaker (Optional):**

- What is one thing you still have in your house or own that would be considered by most people today to be completely useless?

### **STEP TWO: Prayer & Scripture reading**

- Ask someone in your group to pray to open your time together.
- Ask another person to read **Jeremiah 13:1-11**.

### **STEP THREE: Discuss Questions**

1. What was challenging, encouraging, confusing, or stood out most to you from this past weekend's teaching on this text?
2. The linen belt in this text is used to teach an objective lesson to Judah. Can you think of something you learned in life from an objective lesson? Why are they helpful for learning or teaching?
3. How would you describe the way something or someone eventually becomes labeled completely useless? What caused the people of Judah to become completely useless?
4. If pride causes us not to listen, what are some practical ways we experience the truth and consequences of this today in life?
5. Read and study Romans 1:18-25. What are some of the consequences of pride we see in this text? How does this relate to better understanding a similar situation found in Jeremiah 13?
6. Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17. What stood out to you most from listening to the way Paul describes his experience with knowing Jesus? Would you describe it as prideful or something else and why?
7. How does pride keep a person from faith in believing the gospel message, and why is humility so important to having faith in the gospel message?

### **STEP FOUR: Close in prayer**