

MESSAGE NOTES: Jeremiah 43

1. You cannot evade God's discipline/judgment

Luke 18:9-14

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

¹³"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

¹⁴"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

2. Only God has ultimate power (or No power is greater than God's power)

Luke 13:18-20

The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast

¹⁸Then Jesus asked, "What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? ¹⁹It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches."

²⁰Again he asked, "What shall I compare the kingdom of God to?"

STUDY GUIDE:

STEP ONE: Icebreaker (*Optional*):

- If you could become an expert in any skill or subject, what would it be and why?

STEP TWO: Prayer & Scripture reading

- Ask someone in your group to pray to open your time together.
- Ask another person to read **Jeremiah 43**.

STEP THREE: Discuss Questions

1. What was challenging, encouraging, confusing, or stood out most to you from this past weekend's teaching?
2. How is Jeremiah's warning to the people of Judah about the consequences of their actions received by them? Why do you think people often resist hearing difficult truths?
3. In this chapter we see the people of Judah fleeing to Egypt and going against God's command. Why do you think they made this decision despite clear divine instructions?
4. Read **Jeremiah 43:8-10**. Why do you think God told Jeremiah to bury the stones? What picture was God trying to convey to the people of Judah and all others who aligned themselves with Egypt?
5. The consequences of disregarding God's word are apparent in the text this week. Reflecting on your own life, are there areas where you've experienced the consequences of choosing to trust yourself, more than you trust God? Is there something holding you back from currently putting your trust in God?
6. **Read Isaiah 10:20-22 and Romans 11:5-6**. What does this reveal about God's character and his commitment to preserve a remnant of his people, despite Israel's continued unfaithfulness? How does this truth provide hope and assurance for us today, even in the face of our own failures and shortcomings?

STEP FOUR: Prayer: Ask someone in your group to close in prayer.