

JEREMIAH 31:7-14

FROM ISOLATION TO FAMILY

Jeremiah 31:7-14 – *“For thus says the Lord: “Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘O Lord, save your people, the remnant of Israel.’ Behold, I will bring them from the north country and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the pregnant woman and she who is in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble, for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. “Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.’ For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, declares the Lord.”*

Advent – *“a coming into place, view, or being; arrival”*

Because of his advent, Jesus our Savior brings us from isolation to family.

3 Truths About Isolation and Family:

1. Our sin has isolated us and the enemy looks to keep us there (vv. 7-9)

Two Ways We Find Ourselves in Isolation:

1. Sin
2. Rebellion

John Calvin – *“For there is no one so great or mighty that he can avoid the misery that will rise up against him when he resists and strives against God.”*

2. The Father delights in gathering his children at home (vv. 9-11)

Zephaniah 3:17-18 – *“The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.”*

Tony Reinke – *“In the beginning, God created humans to magnify his glory. He made me. I rejected him and chose sin instead, to my ruin and despair. But unknown to me, in eternity past, he set his special love on me. By his beautiful obedience, Christ entered the world to live and die and redeem me, by name, to justify me, to give me the Spirit, and to re-*

create something beautiful out of this mess called me, something fully obedient, fully radiant in holiness, fully happy in holy communion with God. All my sins and disobedience right now pain him. Yet he delights in all my labors against sin, and my labors to obey, and he lovingly disciplines me toward a day when I will reflect my Savior's glory to the core of my motives, my thoughts, and all my words and actions, to his great delight. This is what God created me to be!"

3. In the family, there is great joy and celebration (vv. 12-14)

John 3:16-17 – *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."*

Response:

1. Trust the gospel.
2. Rest and allow the Father to delight in you.
3. Celebrate the joy of the Lord.