



Sermon Discussion Guide

06.12.22 Message | Tyler Myers | Jeremiah 23:16-17, 18-22

Key Scriptures:

Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

- Psalm 51:6

Whoever gives thought to the word will discover good, and blessed is he who trusts in the Lord.

- Proverbs 16:20

Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. They say continually to those who despise the word of the Lord, 'It shall be well with you'; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, 'No disaster shall come upon you.'"

- Jeremiah 23:16-17

For who among them has stood in the council of the Lord to see and to hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened? Behold, the storm of the Lord! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked. The anger of the Lord will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart. In the latter days you will understand it clearly. I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds.

- Jeremiah 23:18-22

"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. "Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

- Matthew 7:1-6

Message Highlights:

- “Words matter: Any word that’s really important is also confusing. Words...have dozens of different meanings. Perhaps that’s because they’re important.” -Seth Godin
- As exciting as something is in the moment, if it doesn’t align with God’s nature and word it will do damage to your soul in the long run.
- We can simultaneously be deeply spiritual and wrong; thus, it is important to cultivate a spirit of hearing, paying attention to and listening to the Lord.
- The intent of God’s heart is prevalent in the gospel, which reveals the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Conversation Starter:

Can you think of an instance where you took someone else’s word(s) to mean something that wasn’t originally intended? How did that misunderstanding impact the conversation?

Discuss the Message:

1. Why could the complex, and sometimes confusing, nature of words make their very nature more valuable?
 - a) What are the words or messages you listen to that fill you with vain hopes (Jeremiah 23:16)?
 - b) Do the words you allow into your heart and mind influence you to follow your own heart or the heart of Jesus? Explain.
2. Why is it dangerous to judge others, according to Matthew 7:1-6?
 - a) What are some possible explanations for your tendency to judge others?
 - b) Consider the Bible’s definition of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. How does judgment stand in opposition to love’s characteristics?
 - c) How can you best set yourself up to “notice the log in your own eye” before passing judgment on others?
3. How does Jeremiah 23:18-22 demonstrate the importance of abiding and “standing” in God’s council?
 - a) How is God’s heart for his people exemplified in this passage?
 - b) Do you sense conflict between God’s desires for you and your own desires in the depths of your secret heart?
 - c) If so, are there areas in your life in which you could focus more closely on hearing, listening and paying attention to the Lord? Name or jot down those areas.

Pray:

Heavenly Father, we declare our trust in you and your truth. Help us to cultivate a spirit of hearing, of paying attention and listening to you. May your voice be louder, may your voice be clearer and may your words be sweeter than all the others in our life. Please keep our eyes fixed on you, and please root our hearts so deep in you so that you can teach us wisdom in the secret places of our hearts. Amen.