

## B.C.: BEFORE CHRISTMAS

### Jeremiah: A Vision of Hope

12-19-21

*Jeremiah 1:5* - "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

*Jeremiah 33:14-16* - "The day will come," says the Lord, "when I will do for Israel and Judah all the good things I have promised them. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will raise up a righteous descendant from King David's line. He will do what is just and right throughout the land. <sup>16</sup> In that day Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this will be its name: **The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**" NLT

**Big Idea: In Jesus, we find hope for the future that changes our present.**

*Luke 2:1, 4-7, 11* - In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. . . <sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. . . <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David **a Savior** has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

*Jeremiah 33:16* - And this will be its name: 'The Lord Is Our Righteousness.' NLT

What does it mean that Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ righteousness?

- A righteous *person* is someone who lives completely \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

*Romans 3:10* - As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one. . ."

*2 Corinthians 5:21* - God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

1. Our \_\_\_\_\_ is that we are right with God \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

That means...

- No matter how discouraged I might be about some areas of my life...
- No matter how defeated I might feel in areas I struggle with...
- No matter how many times I have stumbled or fallen or lost my way...

I have hope. You have hope. In Jesus, we have hope.

- Hope that declares we are accepted as God's sons and daughters.
- Hope that promises we are never alone.
- Hope that reminds us that there are always second chances.
- Hope that says no matter how dark the night, morning will come.
- Hope that is leading us to a place where there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.

2. In Jesus, we have a Savior who has rescued us from the destruction and devastation of this world and promises us a better future.

- This hope for the future can transform our present.

*Mark 6:45-52* - **Immediately** Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and **go on ahead** of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>46</sup> After leaving them, **he went up on a mountainside to pray.** <sup>47</sup> When **evening** came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. <sup>48</sup> **He saw the disciples straining at the oars**, because the **wind was against them**. About the fourth watch of the night **he went out to them, walking on the lake**. He was about to **pass by them**, <sup>49</sup> but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. **They cried out**, <sup>50</sup> because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take courage! **It is I**. Don't be afraid." <sup>51</sup> Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, <sup>52</sup> for they had not understood about **the loaves**; their hearts were hardened.

3. I realize I'm sinking when:

- I know I'm sinking when I can't see **my** way.

*John 6:17a* - By now **it was dark**...

- I know I'm sinking when I feel I'm on my **own**.

*John 6:17b* - Jesus had not yet joined them.

- I know I'm sinking when I feel I'm out of my **comfort** zone.

*Mark 6:47*-the boat was **in the middle** of the lake...

- I know I'm sinking when I feel a strong force **against** me.

*Mark 6:48*- the wind was **against** them.

- I know I'm sinking when I'm struggling, but I'm failing.

*Mark 6:48*- He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them.

#### 4. What should I do if I'm sinking?

- A) Have courage because \_\_\_\_\_ is with me.

*Mark 6:50*- Jesus said to them "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid!"

- B) Stay \_\_\_\_\_ on Jesus.

*Matthew 14:30*- But when he **saw** the **wind**, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

- C) Don't \_\_\_\_\_.

*Matthew 14:31*- Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "Why did you doubt?"

- D) Praise God.

*Matthew 14:32-33*- And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. <sup>33</sup> Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."