

Jeremiah Study

Chapters 10-12 (~30 min)

- Still in the Temple Discourse section of Jeremiah
- Then we'll move into the cities & streets

Chapter 10

(10:1-2) "Do not learn the way of the Gentiles, do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven".

- Especially today, this is applicable to us:
 - Beware learning the ways of modern culture. (desensitized sin)
 - Do not be dismayed at the chaos around us.
 - The world isn't "Falling apart", according to God's word, it's "Falling into place".

(10:3-5) Talks about the process of idol worship. People cutting down trees (that God made) to carve an idol that cannot move or stand on its own. If it can't even stand it should be obvious that it can't do any good. Nor can it do evil. (Do not fear these things, but certainly don't engage with them).

(10:6-15) These man-made idols are worthless. They are made from the resources that God made. And, they shall perish.

(10:16) God is not like these idols. HE made ALL THINGS.

- Israel is the tribe of His inheritance.
 - (Beware replacement-theology that tries to replace Israel with the church)

(10:17-22) We see again that this hurts God. We also see a warning to Pastors (shepherds) that they MUST seek the Lord & not become "dull hearted", else, their flock will be scattered.

(10:23-25) "Punish the Gentiles who don't know You or call on Your name, not us?!"

- We've already heard God pleading with His children to "know Him", and declaring that they "do not know Him". But here, (perhaps the entitled child), is pointing to the Gentiles saying "Hey punish them that don't know you". "But we call on Your name God, surely that counts for something?!"
 - But remember this passage in Jeremiah 2:27-28 where God points out that they make these idols & worship them. Give them credit when things are going well, but then, when they are in trouble they call to God to save them?
 - Is that better than the Gentiles that do not know God exists? Or worse?

Chapter 11

The broken covenant

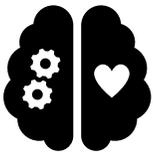
- Proclaimed in the cities of Judah & the Streets of Jerusalem

(11:1-8) God established a covenant with their fathers & God kept his end of the bargain, but the people did not.

- They did not listen to God
- They followed their own sinful hearts

(11:9-14) They have broken the covenant & refuse to hear God's word & repent.

- God says "Don't pray for them, don't cry for them, I won't hear it". – SUPER SAD!



Thought:

Is anyone ever too far gone?
I believe the answer is "no" & here is why..

Given the context of God's heart & His word, I don't think He's saying that they are too far gone here. I think He is saying that even if they cry out to Him, it's not from a genuine repentant heart, but rather, it would be for selfish reasons merely wanting Him to save them from trouble so that they could continue on with their own ways.

The thief on the Cross (See Luke 23:39-43)

We get a beautiful picture of salvation here in this example. This is often used to outline that this thief just believed on Jesus, he didn't have time to be baptized or join a study group, but he still got to dine with Jesus in paradise. And that is a great example of the free gift of salvation vs works!

- The first thief said "If you are who you say you, get yourself down!"
- The second obviously believed that Jesus was who He said he was. And he could of said "yes! Get yourself down & save me too!".. but he didn't.

Here is something we don't often highlight in that story, which is the value of a genuine repentant heart. Thief #2 acknowledged that he's guilty and that he deserved what he was getting. He didn't even need to speak up to defend Jesus, but he did. He didn't even ask Jesus to save him, he just said "remember me". I think this is an example of an act of "love", from a genuine heart. Not a prayer to get something, just an honest acknowledgement of truth.

Other examples where God says he will not hear prayer:

Reason	Scripture	
Unconfessed Sin	Psalms 66:18	18 If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;
Wrong Motives	James 4:3	3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

Lack of Faith	Hebrews 11:6	6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.
Disobedience	1 Peter 3:12	12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”
Broken Relationships (Unforgiveness)	Matthew 5:23-24	23 “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.
Ignoring the Needy	Proverbs 21:13	13 Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered.

Through the book of Jeremiah, we see these check all of those boxes. Perhaps that is why God is telling Jeremiah to stop praying for them.

	<p>Examine: Maybe this is a note into our prayer life & how we pray for those that are not following God. Perhaps our first request to God would be that they come to <i>know</i> God, and that through that God could work on the need (i.e. addiction, healing, etc).</p>
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(11:15-17) They worshiped idols, even in God’s house, and now they are doomed.

(11:18-23) They want to kill Jeremiah & God will punish them for it.

- I don’t think that Jeremiah is *cursing* them (or asking God to), likely he is revealing what God has already given him as the plan.
 - We should be very careful wishing harm or judgement on people.
- This group lost their opportunity to be in the remnant that God will save to keep His promise with Abraham.

Chapter 12

(12:1-4) Jeremiah asks “Why do bad people prosper?”

(12:5-13) God answers that the apparent prosperity will be short lived.

(12:14-17) We see that God uses these nations (evil neighbors) as a sword to punish Isreal, however, He is also saying that they (in their evil) will not prosper for long either. God will judge those nations also.

- He also gives an invitation to the gentiles here : (v16) “... if they will learn carefully the ways of My people, to swear by My name... then they shall be established in the midst of My people.”