



I FEEL YOUR PAIN

Studies in Jeremiah & Lamentations

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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Making Your Own Bed

Introduction to Jeremiah 7-12

We've heard the saying, "You've made your own bed, now you're going to have to lie in it." Israel's southern kingdom, Judah, is an excellent illustration of this. They had every reason to be faithful to God who had taken care of them in the beginning, had continued to encourage them to return to Him even after they strayed, and had punished Israel to the north when they disobeyed. In spite of these things Judah decided to do things their own way and rebel against God. They thought they could get away with their disobedience simply by being more religious. They went to the temple so much that they made it into an object of superstition, as if being inside its walls would assure their blessing. They offered numerous sacrifices as well, but all the while they were failing to care for the

helpless and were engaging in sinful activities such as oppression, greed and idolatry. God would not allow them to escape punishment because they refused to repent and return to Him. This led to a decree of judgment on them, which in turn made His prophet, Jeremiah, very sad. This sadness was also provoked because of the sin of his countrymen, and their utter disregard for God and His ways. Jeremiah realized that the truly wise man would understand that sin would have to be punished, and that it was an affront to their holy God and His covenant. After all, God was the God of lovingkindness, justice and righteousness, and could not permit sin among His people that contradicted these very traits, and idolatry that betrayed their loyalty to Him. However, as Jeremiah



Our hearts should break with God's over our sin.

preached these things and pronounced God's judgment, his countrymen not only rejected him, but decided to mistreat him as well. In addition to this Jeremiah didn't understand why God allowed the wicked to prosper; but in all of this God still promised that Jeremiah would remain secure as He protected him, and that he would see God's answer as God brought judgment in His own time. He knew how much Jeremiah could handle, and He would be certain that Judah, who had made their own bed, would have to lie in it.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

Daily Study Questions for Jeremiah 7-12

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com, small groups, abf)

<p>1. Look at Jer 7:1-15. In what was Judah trusting (v4, 8-10) and why was this bad (v10-11)? Apply. What should they have done (v5-7) and what would God do if they didn't (v12-15)?</p>	
<p>2. In 7:16-34 what had God done for Israel (v22-23, 25) and how had they responded (v17-19, 24, 26, 30-31)? How was Jeremiah to act (v16, 27-28) and what would God do (v20, 28-29, 32-34)?</p>	
<p>3. From 8:1-17 what did Judah refuse (v5-7)? What was their attitude (v8-9, 10-12) and what would God do (v10, 12, 13-17)?</p>	

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Jeremiah 7-12 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Using 8:18-9:11 how did Jeremiah feel (v18, 20-22, 9:1, 10)? Why (8:19, 9:2, 3-6, 7-9, 11)? How can we follow his example?

5. Based on 9:12-26 who is wise (v12-14, 17-22, 23-24)? What was God's judgment on Judah and others (v15-16, 22, 25-26)?

6. According to 10:1-16 why is idolatry foolish (v3-5, 8-9, 11, 14-15) and what is God like (v6-7, 10, 12-13, 16)?

7. In 10:17-11:8 what was Jeremiah feeling and why (v19-22, 23-25)? What did God tell him about Judah (11:1-5, 6-8) and how did Jeremiah respond (v5)?

8. From 11:9-23 what was Judah's "conspiracy" (v9-10) and in what would it result (v11-13, 17)? How would Jeremiah be treated (v19-21) and what would God do (22-23)?

9. Read 12:1-6. What was Jeremiah's problem (v1-4)? How did God answer him (v5-6) and what did this mean? Apply.

10. Looking at 12:7-17 how did God view Judah (v8, 9, 10-11) and what would He do to them (v7, 12-13)? What would He do to their enemies (v14-17) and why (v15)?

11. Think back over Jer 7-12. How can we avoid Judah's superficial obedience, and what can we learn from Jeremiah's sadness over their sin? How does God's protection of Jeremiah give you assurance?

Scripture to Remember

"Let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on the earth, for I delight in these things, declares the Lord."

Jeremiah 9:24 (NAS)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—It's All About Jesus, The Worthy Life (Col 1:9-12)

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Would you describe the Christian life as very difficult or fairly easy to live? Why? How do you feel about this?
2. Someone read Col 1:9-12. How do you think most people try to "discover" the will of God? How do you do it?
3. What does this strategy for determining God's will mean to you: live by the Word of God, don't put God to the test, and worship Him alone? Why does this work?
4. What does v10 reveal as the main desire of the Christian life? What is the first step in doing this? How should this affect your life each day?
5. Do you consider yourself productive in the Christian life? What is your evidence?
6. Looking back can you see progress in your Christian life, and do you see God's power at work in you? Share that with the group.
7. Bring up anything else important to you from Sunday's message if there is time.