



I FEEL YOUR PAIN

Studies in Jeremiah & Lamentations

July 8, 2007

Growing in Spirit & Truth

Volume 5, Issue 36



Promises, Promises

Introduction to Jeremiah 13-19

The Dionne Warwick song, *Promises, Promises*, tells the story of how one woman is done with the broken promises of her boyfriend. In many ways this parallels God's relationship to His people in the time of Jeremiah. This week's study is filled with pictures that show how sad unfulfilled promises and potential can be in any relationship. God urges His people to consider their unfulfilled potential first by telling Jeremiah to buy a beautiful waistband, and then hide it in the crevice of a rock near the Euphrates. After it had been there for a while and he retrieved it, it was ruined. God was saying that His people were like a beautiful sash around His waist, but when they went to foreign powers for security, their relationship to Him had been ruined, along with its potential. The

consequences of this lost potential were then revealed. He would fill them with wine until they were in a drunken stupor, and they would unwittingly be carried into exile. They would experience severe drought because they loved to wander from Him. The false prophets that promised peace would be exposed, and even if Moses and Samuel were to ask for Judah's deliverance, God would refuse. Their broken promises and unfulfilled potential would result in judgment. Although Jeremiah was sad about this their denial and lack of repentance would lead to this disastrous consequence. The reason was the deceitful and desperately evil hearts that Judah (and all mankind) possessed. But although these consequences were inevitable, God had a corrective solution available. In another famous picture,



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

God would be like a potter who remade the clay into a usable container. He would break and remold the remnant. If they would begin to trust in the Lord, rather than the strength of man, they would become like a fruitful tree planted by the water. But if they decided instead to stiffen their necks against God, they would be smashed like pottery thrown into the valley of Slaughter. Their unrepentant attitudes would lead God to have enough of their promises, and their potential would remain unfulfilled.

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 13-19

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

<p>1. Look at Jer 13:1-14. What did God tell Jeremiah to do (13:1-7) and what did it mean (v11)? What was he to tell them (v12) and why (v13-14)?</p>	
<p>2. In 13:15-27 what was Judah to do (v15-16), and what would happen if they didn't (v17, 19)? What was their real problem (v22-27)?</p>	
<p>3. From 14:1-12 what was Judah's situation (v1-7), and what caused it (v10-11)? How did God tell Jeremiah to respond (v12) and why?</p>	

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Jeremiah 13-19 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Using Jer 14:13-22 what were the false prophets saying (v13) and what was God's response (v14, 15-16)? How did Jeremiah respond (v19, 20, 21, 22)?	
5. Based on 15:1-9 what did God say in answer to Jeremiah's prayer (v1-2, 3-4)? Why (v6-7)?	
6. According to 15:10-21 how did Jeremiah feel (v10, 15, 18) and why (v10, 16-18)? What would God do (v11, 19-21)?	
7. In 16:1-21 what did God tell Jeremiah not to do (v2, 5, 8) and why (v3-4, 6-7, 9)? How did Jeremiah respond to the coming judgment (v19-20)?	
8. From 17:1-11 what was Judah's heart like (v1-2, 5, 9)? How does God deal with hearts like this (v3-4, 5-6, 10-11)? What is a better approach (v7-8)?	
9. Looking at 17:12-27 what was Jeremiah's affirmation (v12-13), his actions (v16), and requests (v14, 17-18)? What was he to preach (v19-23) and why (v24-27)?	
10. Read 18:1-12. What were the lessons for Judah (and us) from the potter and the clay (v1-6, 7-8, 9-10)? How should we respond (v11), and how should we not respond (v12)?	
11. Using 18:13-23 what had Israel done wrong to God (v15) and Jeremiah (v18)? How did Jeremiah respond (v19-23)? Was this good?	
12. According to Jer 19 what was about to happen (v3-9) and what would picture this (v1-2, 10-11)? Why would this happen (v15)?	

Scripture to Remember

"The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds."

Jeremiah 17:9-10 (NAS)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—It's All About Jesus, His Supremacy (Col 1:15-19)

(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. Share with the group the picture you had of God when you were growing up. Did that attract you to Him or make you want to avoid Him? Why?
2. Read Col 1:15-19. When you think of Jesus being the "image" of God, how does that change your perception of God the Father?
3. What does Jesus' "firstborn of all creation" status mean about His relationship with God? How should this affect your relationship with Him?
4. Since Jesus was the One who actually created all things and the One who holds it all together, how should we relate to Him—in actions, attitudes and words?
5. How does the fact that Jesus is the Head of the church present to us both a privilege and a responsibility?
6. Spend some time together worshiping Jesus—either through praise, meditation on Col 1:15-19 as someone reads, or in song—for whom all things were created.
7. Bring up anything else important to you from Sunday's message if there is time.