

THE POTTER'S HANDS

J E R E M I A H 1 - 2 0



SERMON NOTES AND QUESTIONS

JEREMIAH 1

A PROPHET COMMISSIONED



1. What are some authoritative voices in the world today?

2. Read Jeremiah 1:1-19. Who is Jeremiah? What do we know about his heritage? (1 Kings 2:26)

3. Were Josiah, Jehoiakim and Zedekiah good or bad kings of Judah? (2 Kings 23-24)

4. What terrible tragedy lies at the end? (v3) What impact does it have on the reader to know the end from the beginning?

5. What did God appoint Jeremiah to do?

6. How is Deuteronomy 18:18 fulfilled in Jeremiah? How does Jeremiah resemble Moses?

7. What is the essence of Jeremiah's message?

8. How has God spoken to us in 'the last days'? (Hebrews 1:1-3)

9. How have we seen God's word prevail over the might of nations and kingdoms? (v10)

10. Do you value speaking God's word to others? Why or why not? (Matthew 28, Ephesians 4)

JEREMIAH 2-3

SPURNED GRACE



1. Why is unfaithfulness so damaging?

2. Read Jeremiah 2:1-22. What analogies are used for Israel's relationship with the LORD? vs 2, 3, 14, 21.

3. What analogies are used for Israel's treatment of the LORD? Vs 20, 21, 24, 26, 33. Do you find this offensive language? Is this language necessary?

4. Discuss Israel's sin. Vs 11.

5. Israel has exchanged their dependance on the LORD for other things. How will it end? 27-28, 36-37.

6. In what ways is the leadership culpable? vs 8.

7. Read Romans 1:18-25. How is sexual impurity related to idolatry?

8. How does God punish such behaviour?

9. Read Matthew 4:8-10. How does Jesus reverse the effects of idolatry?

10. How is Jesus a better prophet, priest and king?

JEREMIAH 4-6

BITTER PUNISHMENT



1. Share a time when you were warned. How did it feel?

2. Read Jeremiah 4:5-31. What warning was Jeremiah to announce in 4:5-9?

3. How did this announcement, spoken through Jeremiah, compare with other prophetic voices of the time? (4:10, 5:12)

4. What was the reason for punishment? (4:18, 4:22)

5. What was recently discovered in 2 Kings 22-23? What effect did it have on the people?

6. What was it like for Jeremiah to proclaim this message of judgement?

7. How would the exiles have received this message?

8. Is there any glimmer of hope?
(4:27, 5:10,18)

9. Read Hebrews 6:4-6. How should we heed the warning against turning our backs on Jesus?

10. How should we go about warning others of God's judgement? (Think tone and attitude, not just content.)

JEREMIAH 7-10

VALLEY OF SLAUGHTER



1. When persuading people to believe in Jesus should evangelists use the fear of hell?

2. Read Jeremiah 7:30-8:3. 'Topheth' may have stemmed from the Aramaic word for 'fireplace'. It was used for making human sacrifices to the ancient god Molech and was considered a sacred place. The 'Valley of Ben Hinnom' became known as 'Gehenna'. In what ways will Topheth be transformed?

3. Read 2 Kings 21:1-8, 16. Is verse 16 a fair description of Manasseh? Could this be the background to Jeremiah 7? Why could Manasseh and others not understand the detestable nature of their practices? (Jer 8:11-12).

4. How is this a fitting punishment?

5. Read Mark 9:43-48. What point does Jesus make? What can be done to avoid hell?

6. Read Hebrews 9:27. What is Christ's relationship with Topheth?

7. What is sacrificed nowadays for the sake of protection and prosperity?

8. How does this passage shape your understanding of judgment?

9. Should people be warned?

JEREMIAH 11-15

BROKEN COVENANT



1. Have you ever been angry with someone you loved?

2. Read Jeremiah 11:1-17.
What was the basis of God's covenant with Israel?
(Exodus 19:3-6)

3. What are the terms of the covenant? (Deuteronomy 27:26)

4. Did Israel listen to the terms of the covenant?

5. What is the conspiracy among the people of Judah?
(v9)

6. How will God respond according to the terms of the covenant?

7. What does it mean for Israel's future? Is Israel at this point still loved by God?

8. Read Jeremiah 31:27-37.
Where will God take things from here?

9. How is this promise fulfilled with the coming of Jesus? (Luke 22:19-20)

10. Are we included in the new covenant?

11. Can we break the new covenant like Israel did with the old?

JEREMIAH 16-17

BLESSINGS WITHDRAWN



1. Forever chemicals defiled the land and livelihood of South Coast aboriginals in Wreck Bay. Why is this a problem and who is impacted?

2. Read Jeremiah 16:1-21. How did Israel defile the land?

3. How were they punished? Is this fitting?

4. Why is mourning and feasting important? What does it mean when there is no opportunity for this?

5. What is the note of mercy?

6. In what ways will the return from exile be like the Exodus?

7. In this case, is judgment productive?

8. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. Was Christ's death justified? What did this judgement achieve?

9. How does Jeremiah correct or foil our view of judgment?

10. Is there a place for retributive justice?

JEREMIAH 18-20

POTTER'S HOUSE



1. Can we change God by our actions?

2. Read Jeremiah 18:1-23. What did Jeremiah see in the potter's house?

3. Is the potter within his rights to change his plans?

4. How does the potter working the clay illustrate God's relationship with Israel?

5. How is Israel different from the clay?

6. What was the most horrible thing that Israel had committed? (v13)

7. What will be the outcome of their actions?

8. Is Jeremiah justified to pray for God not to forgive his accusers?

9. How did Jesus pray for those responsible for his death? (Luke 23:34)

10. According to the logic of Jeremiah 18:9-10, can we lose our salvation?



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PRINTED OCTOBER 2024