

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Jeremiah 8:4-9:2. What questions come to you as you read the text? What do you find most challenging and/or most encouraging?
2. What about the people of Jerusalem amazes God? How are birds even wiser than they are? Do you find this behaviour striking or unremarkable? Why?
3. What role does pride play in the inability of the people to repent & how does it reflect in our lives today?
4. Over the course of Jeremiah's ministry, he had harsh criticism to deliver to Jerusalem's leaders & particularly to their religious leaders. What is the recurring problem with their leadership? Why should it not have been like that?
5. Compare this condemnation of Judah's leadership to that in Matthew 23. What similarities do you notice? See also Ezekiel 34:7-11. Why would the "leaders of the people" lead people astray? Do leaders need to be held to a higher standard? Why/Why not?
6. How do verses 13-17 describe the consequences of turning away from God to other sources of security, satisfaction, or self-definition? What would such a punishment look like in today's language?
7. What was the cry of Jeremiah's heart as he contemplated the judgments he was announcing? Reflect on a time when you experienced sorrow like Jeremiah for the spiritual condition of others. How did God answer Jeremiah's pleading?
8. In what ways can we bring spiritual healing to our communities today? How does the spiritual barrenness of people you know effect the way you pray for them & relate to them?
9. How might Jeremiah speak to a group of world leaders (like the G-7 or NATO or the UN) in today's world? What do you think he would say? What might he say at a church convention? How would he speak to those at your family reunion?
10. What does this text call you to do?

Remember:

You can't fix the emptiness of what sin has broken,
but in weeping over it, experience the fullness of the God who can.

Living Water Fellowship

10th Sunday after Pentecost – 28th July 2024

COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION *THE LORD IS BY MY SIDE (CITYALIGHT)*

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

SONG: *VIDEO – I Want to Know You (CITYALIGHT)*

BIBLE READING: Jeremiah 8:4-15

⁴ "Jeremiah, say to the people, 'This is what the Lord says:

"When people fall down, don't they get up again?

When they discover they're on the wrong road, don't they turn back?

⁵ Then why do these people stay on their self-destructive path?

Why do the people of Jerusalem refuse to turn back?

They cling tightly to their lies & will not turn around.

⁶ I listen to their conversations & don't hear a word of truth.

Is anyone sorry for doing wrong? Does anyone say, "What a terrible thing I have done"?

No! All are running down the path of sin as swiftly as a horse galloping into battle!

⁷ Even the stork that flies across the sky knows the time of her migration,
as do the turtledove, swallow, & crane. They all return at the proper time each year.
But not my people! They do not know the Lord's laws.

⁸ "How can you say, "We are wise because we have the word of the Lord,"
when your teachers have twisted it by writing lies?

⁹ These wise teachers will fall into the trap of their own foolishness,
for they have rejected the word of the Lord. Are they so wise after all?

¹⁰ I will give their wives to others & their farms to strangers.

From the least to the greatest, their lives are ruled by greed.

Yes, even my prophets & priests are like that. They are all frauds.

¹¹ They offer superficial treatments for my people's mortal wound.

They give assurances of peace when there is no peace.

¹² Are they ashamed of these disgusting actions?

Not at all—they don't even know how to blush!

Therefore, they will lie among the slaughtered.

They will be brought down when I punish them, says the Lord.

¹³ I will surely consume them.

There will be no more harvests of figs & grapes. Their fruit trees will all die.

Whatever I gave them will soon be gone. I, the Lord, have spoken!

¹⁴ “Then the people will say, Why should we wait here to die?

Come, let’s go to the fortified towns & die there.

For the Lord our God has decreed our destruction.

He has given us a cup of poison to drink because we sinned against the Lord.

¹⁵ We hoped for peace, but no peace came.

We hoped for a time of healing, but found only terror.’

SONG: VIDEO – What Love My God (*CityAlight*)

BIBLE READING: Jeremiah 8:16-9:2

¹⁶ “The snorting of the enemies’ warhorses can be heard

all the way from the land of Dan in the north!

The neighing of their stallions makes the whole land tremble.

They are coming to devour the land & everything in it — cities & people alike.

¹⁷ I will send these enemy troops among you like poisonous snakes you cannot charm.

They will bite you, & you will die. I, the Lord, have spoken!”

¹⁸ My grief is beyond healing; my heart is broken.

¹⁹ Listen to the weeping of my people; it can be heard all across the land.

“Has the Lord abandoned Jerusalem?” the people ask. “Is her King no longer there?”

“Oh, why have they provoked my anger with their carved idols

and their worthless foreign gods?” says the Lord.

²⁰ “The harvest is finished, & the summer is gone,” the people cry,

“yet we are not saved!”

²¹ I hurt with the hurt of my people. I mourn & am overcome with grief.

²² Is there no medicine in Gilead? Is there no physician there?

Why is there no healing for the wounds of my people?

^{9:1} If only my head were a pool of water & my eyes a fountain of tears,

I would weep day & night for all my people who have been slaughtered.

² Oh, that I could go away & forget my people & live in a travelers’ shack in the desert.

For they are all adulterers — a pack of treacherous liars.

CHILDREN’S TIME

FAITH CHAT:

1. What’s the last thing that really broke your heart?
2. How do you experience God’s fullness in the middle of “broken” circumstances?

THE MESSAGE: FULLY ENGAGED: IN GRIEF

OFFERING SONG: VIDEO – You Are My All in All

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

Words of Institution & The Lord’s Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship during Communion:

VIDEO – My Father’s World (*Jadon Lavik*)

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God,
May the love of Jesus break your heart
for what breaks his. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: VIDEO – Jesus Strong & Kind (*Colin Buchanan & CityAlight*)

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SHOW HIS LOVE