

Living Water Fellowship

8TH SUNDAY IN PENTECOST - 14TH JULY 2024

COME TO JESUS

SONG:

Come Lord Jesus Come (AT 20)

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING:

Jeremiah 2:1-13 & 19

¹ The Lord gave me another message. He said, ² “Go! Shout this message to Jerusalem. This is what the Lord says:

“I remember how eager you were to please me as a young bride long ago, how you loved me & followed me even through the barren wilderness.

³ In those days Israel was holy to the Lord, the first of his children.

All who harmed his people were declared guilty. Disaster fell on them. I, the Lord, have spoken!”

⁴ Listen to the word of the Lord, people of Jacob — all you families of Israel!

⁵ This is what the Lord says: “What did your ancestors find wrong with me that led them to stray so far from me? They worshiped worthless idols, only to become worthless themselves.

⁶ They did not ask, ‘Where is the Lord who brought us safely out of Egypt & led us through the barren wilderness — a land of deserts & pits, a land of drought & death, where no one lives or even travels?’ ⁷ “And when I brought you into a fruitful land to enjoy its bounty & goodness, you defiled my land & corrupted the possession I had promised you.

⁸ The priests did not ask, ‘Where is the Lord?’

Those who taught my word ignored me, the rulers turned against me, & the prophets spoke in the name of Baal, wasting their time on worthless idols.

⁹ Therefore, I will bring my case against you,” says the Lord.

“I will even bring charges against your children’s children in the years to come.

¹⁰ “Go west & look in the land of Cyprus; go east & search through the land of Kedar.

Has anyone ever heard of anything as strange as this? ¹¹ Has any nation ever traded its gods for new ones, even though they are not gods at all? Yet my people have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols! ¹² The heavens are shocked at such a thing & shrink back in horror & dismay,” says the Lord. ¹³ “For my people have done two evil things: They have abandoned me — the fountain of living water. And they have dug for themselves cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all!

¹⁹ Your wickedness will bring its own punishment. Your turning from me will shame you. You will see what an evil, bitter thing it is to abandon the Lord your God & not fear him.

I, the Lord, the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, have spoken!

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Jeremiah 2:1-13 & 19. What questions immediately come to mind?
2. As God speaks through Jeremiah, God pictures his people Israel as a bride. How did the marriage relationship start out? What is the “barren wilderness” in vs 2? From your memory, what was that like for Israel?
3. What failing does God describe afflicting his people repeatedly in their life with him? How is that being lived out during Jeremiah’s lifetime & ministry?
4. Jeremiah 2:7 suggests that the sin of God’s people also has a damaging impact on their land. Read Romans 8:18-23. In what ways does human sinfulness hurt the ground under our feet or the world as part of God’s good creation? Sin always has “flow on effects.” How do you see our cultural abandonment of God playing out?
5. How is it possible for people to have no reverent fear or awesome awareness of God?
6. How did Israel’s leaders attend to their responsibilities, according to Jeremiah? How have you seen that at times in the church? What is our call when our leaders fail to be accountable to God or rebellious in their lives & duties?
7. When someone turns away from God & clings to false religion or the pursuits appealing to the world, what is assured? Why?
One writer notes: “Apart from God, everything becomes a dry well. Everything here leaks & eventually breaks apart & ends.” Reflect on that as you answer.
8. How does Jeremiah here highlight the importance of remembering God’s past blessing & work in our lives? In doing so, would gratitude be a part of your memory? If so, how would that help guide you into the future?
9. What emotions do you sense as God speaks to his rebellious people...both in yourself & in God? When you consider “sin,” do you see it as breaking a rule or a violation to a relationship? Which would be worse? Why?
10. Notice that Jer 2:5 repeats 2 Kings 17:15 as the epitaph for the Northern Kingdom of Israel after their destruction by Assyria. *They worshiped worthless idols, only to become worthless themselves.* How is it that following anything other than God & living in a relationship with him through Jesus Christ is a self-destroying pursuit?
11. What does this text call you to do?

Remember:

The Father offers himself to us as Life-Giver; everything else is a life-stealer.

Continue praying through the week:

**Father prepare me for whatever you require today
and lead me in faith wherever you call me to go.
In Jesus’ Name...Amen.**

SONG: *Change my heart O God (AT 354)*

FAITH CHAT:

1. Describe a time when you made a really bad choice between multiple alternatives? How would you avoid making a similar mistake again?
2. When you consider the effect of sin in our world today, what for you is most grief-inducing? (just makes you profoundly sad)

THE MESSAGE: *FULLY ENGAGED: IN REBELLION*

OFFERING SONG: *Lord be the Rising (AT 676)*

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

Since we have been raised with Christ Jesus, let us set our minds on heavenly things, not on the things that are on earth. Let's pray together...

Gracious God, sinful & broken we are. We too often neglect fellowship with our loved ones; we neglect our communion with you, & we excuse ourselves from worship & witness. In a world of plenty, we often lack generosity leaving others to. Free us from such bondage, that we may truly reveal the presence of Christ in our lives. Amen.

Christ gave to the church the bread of heaven, his flesh & blood, for our forgiveness, life & salvation. Paul records that gracious gift with these words:

I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread & gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces saying, "This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me." In the same way, he took the cup of wine saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God & his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this to remember me as often as you drink it." For every time you eat this bread & drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.

Where is another God like you, who pardons the guilt of the remnant, overlooking the sins of his special people?

Once again you will have compassion on us.

You trample our sins under your feet and throw them into the depths of the ocean! (Micah 7:18-19)

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 & forever. Amen.

Worship Video during Communion: Cry For Humility (Christ our Life)

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

***(Name), † child of God,
Christ offers you life in him alone.
-- Amen.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: *Yours is the Glory (LHS 770)*

SHOW HIS LOVE

All songs & music in worship used under the licensing agreement of CCL Licence 384660