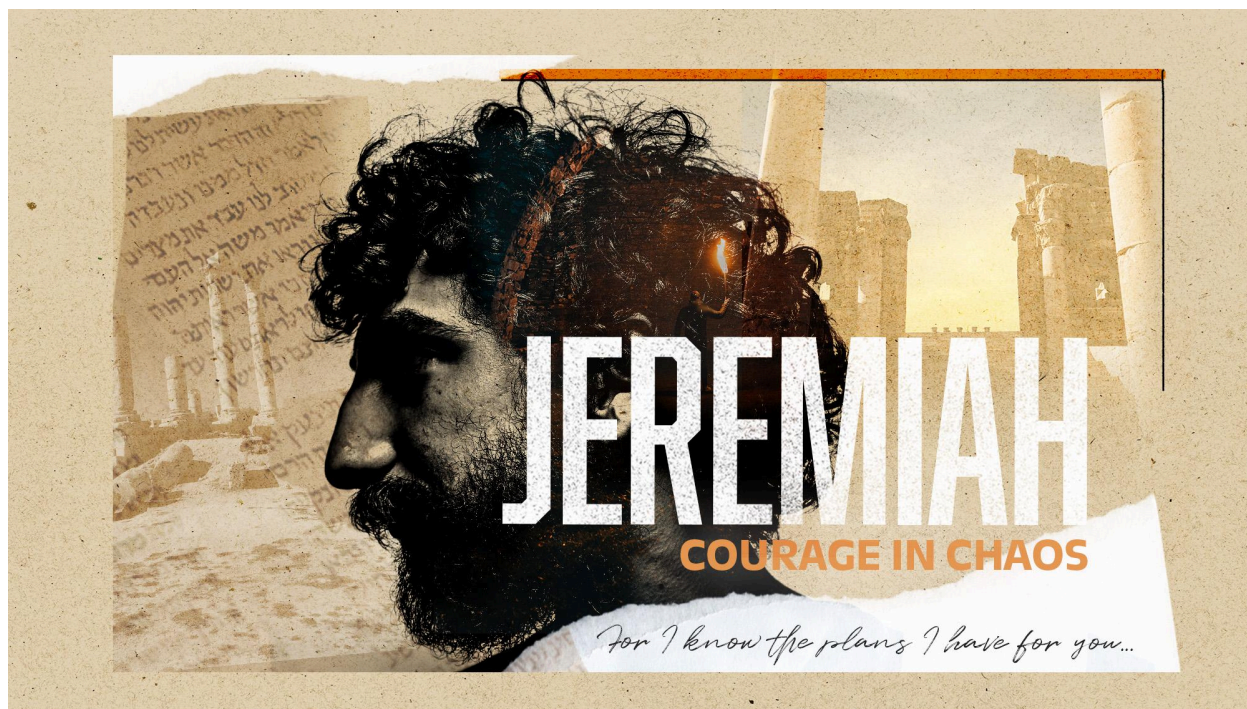


# Jeremiah 16-17

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## Study Guide



Today, if God is doing a new thing, then we want to understand it and know the dynamics of our hearts. Read the following passages and discuss.

### I. God is Doing a New Thing (Jeremiah 16)

#### A. Living Illustrations (16:1-9)

*"The word of the Lord came to me: 2" You shall not take a wife, nor shall you have sons or daughters in this place. ... They shall perish ...*

*5" For thus says the Lord: Do not enter the house of mourning, ... for I have taken away my peace from this people, my steadfast love and mercy, declares the Lord. ... You shall not go into the house of feasting ...*

\*Jeremiah was not permitted to have a family or be part of social events. God had removed him from the people, as an illustration that God had removed Himself from them. According to 2 Corinthians 5:20 we are "ambassadors" for Christ, "God making His appeal through us."

Share of a time when something in your life became an example and others were pointed towards God through your situation. How can knowing that your life points people to God help you through hard things? Discuss.

# Jeremiah 16-17

## *B. When People Won't Listen! (16:10-18)*

10 "And when you tell this people all these words, and they say to you, 'Why has the Lord pronounced all this great evil against us? What is our iniquity? ...

'Because your fathers have forsaken me, ... because you have done worse than your fathers, for behold, every one of you follows his stubborn, evil will, refusing to listen to me.

\*How does it make you feel when people are stubborn and don't want to listen to the gospel? Do you feel discouraged or motivated? What good is there in telling people the truth even if they don't turn to God? Discuss.

## *C. Jeremiah's Consolation (16:19-21)*

19 O Lord, my strength and my stronghold, my refuge in the day of trouble, ...

...to you shall the nations come from the ends of the earth and say: "Our fathers have inherited nothing but lies, worthless things in which there is no profit.

21 "Therefore, behold, I will make them know, this once I will make them know my power and my might, and they shall know that my name is the Lord."

\*Jeremiah finds consolation in the fact that God is His strength, and that God is doing this new thing to reveal more of Himself to the nations. What does it mean for you that God is your strength? How can knowing the big picture of God's plan give you courage? Discuss.

## *II. The Condition of our Hearts (Jeremiah 17)*

Our hearts are permanently damaged (v1-4), systemically cut off (v.5-8), and terminally ill (9-13).

9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? The only hope we have is to ask God to give us a new heart. (Ezekiel 36:26-28).

### *A. The New Heart (17:14-18)*

14 Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise. ...

\*Share what your journey has been like in dealing with the deception of your heart and asking God to give you a new heart. How does praising God, change our hearts? Discuss.

### *B. Life Habits (17:19-27)*

19 Thus said the Lord to me: "Go and stand in the People's Gate, ... 27 keep the Sabbath day holy and do no work on it,

\*Discuss how life habits can shape your heart and your worship. What is the Sabbath? How have you experienced taking a sabbath day? Share some of your experiences.

Conclusion

# Jeremiah 16-17

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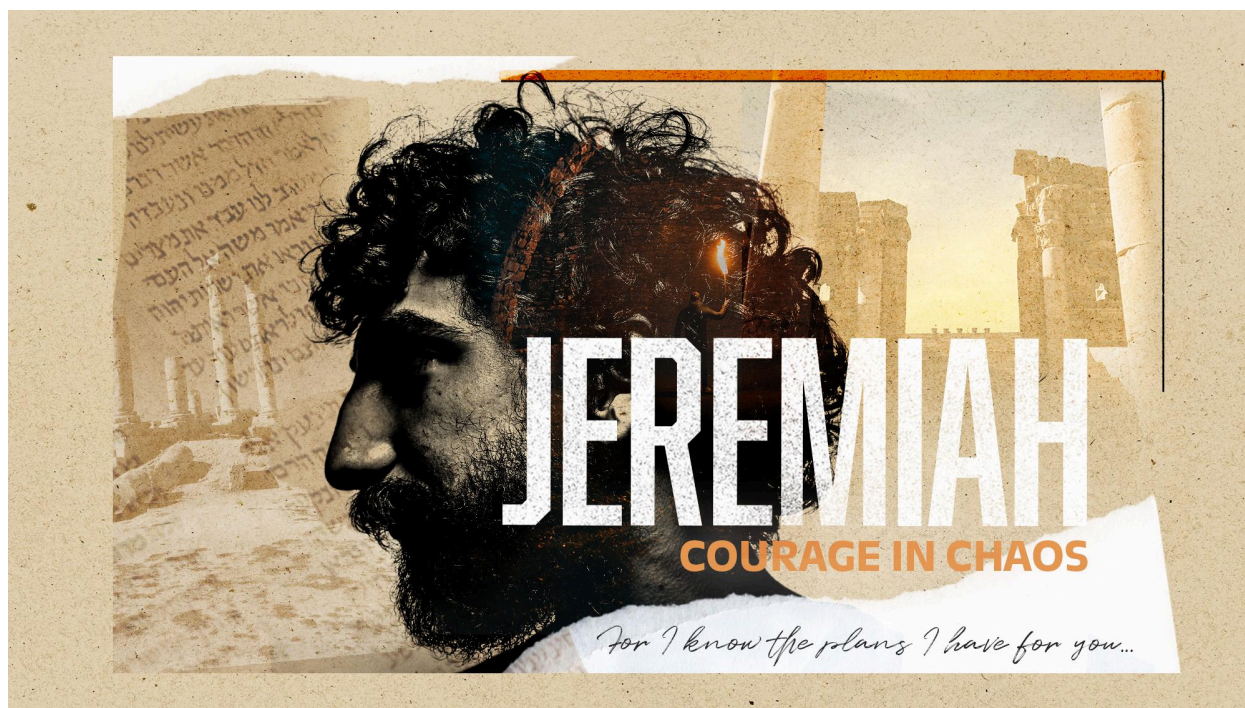
Today, if God is doing a new thing in our world, then we want to understand it and know the dynamics. We are living illustrations! Many will not want to listen! We trust in God, and not in our own hearts. We ask God to heal our hearts, and build habits that will shape us for worship.

\*Discuss any conclusions you have drawn from this study. Is there anything you feel led to start, stop or continue?

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## Sermon Notes



Big Idea: Trust in God! Be the Tree, not the Shrub!

### I. God is Doing a New Thing (Jeremiah 16)

#### A. Living Illustrations (16:1-9)

"The word of the Lord came to me: 2 "You shall not take a wife, nor shall you have sons or daughters in this place. ... They shall perish ...

5 "For thus says the Lord: Do not enter the house of mourning, ...for I have taken away my peace from this people, my steadfast love and mercy, declares the Lord. ... You shall not go into the house of feasting ...

#### 2 Corinthians 5:20

"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us."

#### B. When People Won't Listen! (16:10-18)

10 "And when you tell this people all these words, and they say to you, 'Why has the Lord pronounced all this great evil against us? What is our iniquity? ... 'Because your fathers have forsaken me, ... because you have done worse than your fathers, for behold, every one of you follows his stubborn, evil will, refusing to listen to me.

# Jeremiah 16-17

16 "Behold, I am sending for many fishers, ...many hunters, ...

18 I will doubly repay their iniquity and their sin, because they have polluted my land with the carcasses of their detestable idols, ...

## C. Jeremiah's Consolation (16:19-21)

19 O Lord, my strength and my stronghold, my refuge in the day of trouble, ...

...to you shall the nations come from the ends of the earth and say: "Our fathers have inherited nothing but lies, worthless things in which there is no profit.

21 "Therefore, behold, I will make them know, this once I will make them know my power and my might, and they shall know that my name is the Lord."

## II. The Condition of our Hearts (Jeremiah 17)

### A. Permanently Damaged (17:1-4)

"The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron; with a point of diamond it is engraved on the tablet of their heart, and on the horns of their altars, while their children remember their altars and their Asherim, ...

### B. Systemically Cut Off (17:5-8)

5 Thus says the Lord: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, ...He is like a shrub in the desert,

7 "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, ... He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

Big Idea: Trust in God! Be the Tree, not the Shrub!

### C. Terminally Ill (17:9-13)

9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

13 O LORD, the hope of Israel, all who forsake you...have forsaken the fountain of living water.

## Ezekiel 36:26-28

And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

## D. The New Heart (17:14-27)

### 1. Honesty (17:14-18)



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14 Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise. ... 16 I have not run away from being your shepherd, ... You know what came out of my lips; it was before your face. 17 Be not a terror to me; you are my refuge in the day of disaster.

Jeremiah 15:18

"Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed?  
Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail?"

Jeremiah 15:19

"If you return, I will restore you, ..."

2. Life Habits (17:19-27)

19 Thus said the Lord to me: "Go and stand in the People's Gate, ... 27 keep the Sabbath day holy and do no work on it,

Isaiah 58:13-14

"If you...call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable; ... 14 then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth...

Big Idea: Trust in God! Be the Tree, not the Shrub!