



Jeremiah 6-10

Study Guide

Big Idea: Be Teachable towards God.

1. When it's 11:59pm! (6:1-30)

God gives Judah three '*the clock is about to strike midnight*' warnings, and there is no sense that they heed the warning. The chapter ends with the word "rejected"! (v.30).

Most commentators believe Josiah, the good king, dies at this point and Chapter 7 begins a new dialogue about 5 years later when his son Jehoiakim takes over (ca. 609BC).

Why do you think the people of Judah did not heed the warning signs?

Share examples of how we can be slow to listen to God and then suffer for it.

2. Temple Talk (7:1-8:17) (*Jeremiah speaks from the gate to the Temple*)

A. False Worship (7:1-15)

Read v. 3, 9-10 and discuss the deception of doing religious rituals without obeying.

B. Stop Praying (v.16-20)

Why do you think God says not to pray at times? (see also James 4:3). How can our prayers be misguided? What does that reveal about our hearts?

C. Start Obeying (7:21-28)

Read Jeremiah 7:23. *What is God really looking for in us? Discuss.*

3. Lament (8:18-9:22)

Jeremiah now laments, and asks, "Is there no balm in Gilead?" (8:22a).

Then God laments, and says, "I will take up weeping and wailing..." (9:10a).

Discuss the weeping of God. Talk about the time when "Jesus wept." (John 11:35).

Now read about God's solution:

1 Peter 2:24

"who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed."

What is God's answer to Jeremiah's question, is there "no balm in Gilead"?

How does the work of Christ on the cross bring healing to us? Discuss.

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Jeremiah 10:24

"Correct me, O Lord, but in justice; not in your anger, lest you bring me to nothing."

Discuss what it looks like in your life to have a teachable heart before God. What seems to help us be teachable, and what seems to hinder us? Discuss.

Jeremiah 6-10

Message Outline

Look Back! Come Back! (Jeremiah 2-5)

"... remember ... your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness..."

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I. When it's 11:59pm! (6:1-30)

Warning #1 (6:1-9)

¹⁻⁵Flee for safety, ...Blow the trumpet ...disaster looms out of the north...

⁶⁻⁹As a well keeps its water fresh, so she keeps fresh her evil.

Warning #2 (6:10-20)

¹⁰To whom shall I speak and give warning, that they may hear? ...I am weary of holding it in.

¹³...everyone is greedy...everyone deals falsely...they were not at all ashamed.

¹⁶Thus says the Lord: 'Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.' But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'

Warning #3 (6:21-30)

²²...A people is coming from the north country, ...terror is on every side.

²⁶... put on sackcloth, and roll in ashes; make mourning as for an only son...

³⁰...rejected!

II. Temple Talk (7:1-8:17)

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ² "Stand in the gate of the Lord's house, and proclaim there this word...

A. False Worship (7:1-15)

³...Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place. ⁴Do not trust in these deceptive words: 'This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord.'

⁹...you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, ¹⁰ and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, 'We are delivered!'—only to go on doing all these abominations?

B. Stop Praying (v.16-20)

¹⁶ ...do not pray ...for I will not hear you.

¹⁸...[you] pour out drink offerings to other gods...

Isaiah 1:15 "When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood."

James 4:3 "You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions."

Luke 11: 1-4 (Jesus)

"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come..."

C. Start Obeying (7:21-28)

²³But this command I gave them: 'Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. ... [they] walked in their own counsels and the stubbornness of their evil hearts...truth has perished; it is cut off from their lips.

D. "Cut off" Illustration (7:29-8:17)

²⁹ 'Cut off your hair and cast it away...for the Lord has rejected and forsaken the generation of his wrath.'

1. "When men fall, do they not rise again?" (8:4-7)

2. "How can you say, 'We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us?'" (8:8-11)

3. "Were they ashamed when they committed abomination?" (8:12-17)

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III. Lament (8:18-9:22)

A. Jeremiah Laments (8:18-9:6)

¹⁸ My joy is gone; grief is upon me; my heart is sick within me...For the wound of the daughter of my people is my heart wounded.

²² Is there no balm in Gilead? ...

B. God Laments (9:7-16)

⁷ Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: "Behold, I will refine them and test them, for what else can I do, because of my people?"

¹⁰ "I will take up weeping and wailing ...because they are laid waste ...they have forsaken my law that I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice ...but have stubbornly followed their own hearts..."

1 Peter 2:24

"who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed."

C. Women Called to Lament (9:17-22)

¹⁷ Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Consider, and call for the mourning women to come..."

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IV. Boast in that you Know God! (9:23-10:25)

²⁴ ... let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, ...

A. Don't Follow the Powerless Nations! (9:25-10:5)

B. Worship the True and Living God (10:6-19)

⁶ There is none like you, O Lord; you are great, and your name is great in might.
... King of the nations...true God...living God...everlasting King...who made the earth by his power, ...

¹⁴ Every man is stupid...put to shame by his idols, ...there is no breath in them.

John Piper

1. The longing to be happy is a universal human experience.

2. We should never try to deny or resist our longing to be happy.
3. The deepest and most enduring happiness is found only in God.

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²⁴ Correct me, O Lord, but in justice; not in your anger, lest you bring me to nothing.