

Sermon: Repair the cracks

Bible Passage: Jeremiah 3:1; Romans 3:3

1. The Context

- (a) The immediate context is from 2:1-4:4 with an imagery of husband (God) and wife (Israel & Judah)
- (b) The broader context is from chapters 1-24 with the message of warning
- (c) Placed in the 6th Century BCE—transition period (Decline of the Assyrian empire and rise of the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar)
- (d) 13th year of Josiah (ca. 626 BCE), Jehokaim (609-598 BCE), Zedekiah (597-587 BCE), and the siege, destruction of Jerusalem and the Babylonian exile in 582/586 BCE (1:1-3)
- (e) There existed a covenant between the God of Israel and the people of Israel (Genesis 12:2-3, 15-17, 26:3-5, 31:33, Exodus 24)
- (f) The divine pronouncement given to “Israel” & “Judah” (Historic Reminder, United Kingdom/Divided Kingdom 1 King 11-12)
- (g) The purpose of Jeremiah is twofold—judgment (Broken Covenant) and hope (New Covenant) (1:10)

2. First Love First (2:1-3) – God’s People turned their face towards God

- (a) They were devoted to God in their yesteryears (v. 2)
- (b) They were obedient in the midst of hardships (v. 2)
- (c) They were dedicated for God’s purpose not for common use (v. 3)
- (d) They were protected under the mighty hand of Yahweh (v. 3)

3. First Love Last (2:27, 32:33) – God’s People turned their back on God

- (a) They lived as if God was dead when he was still alive (Romans 7:1-3)
 - (a1) Failure to seek the Lord wholeheartedly (2:6, 8)
 - (a2) Defiled, stained, polluted, profaned, corrupted, contaminated the Land (v.7)
 - (a3) Lack of the fear of the Lord (2:19, 5:22)
 - (a4) Placed their trust in other nations not in God (2:18, 36)
 - (a5) Created and worshipped false god—idols (2:13-19, 14:1-3)
 - (a6) They were backsliding, wandering away from God (8:5, 14:7)
- (b) They lived as if God is present in their midst when he was actually absent (12:2)
 - (b1) They were sinning and yet not ashamed of themselves (2:23, 3:3)
 - (b2) They worshipped YHWH and also the Canaanite gods (Jeremiah 7)
 - (b3) They held offices but relinquished their responsibilities (Oxymoron, the Kings—oppressors, prophets—liars, priests-idolaters, shepherds—scatter, 2:26, 29, Jeremiah 22-23)
 - (b4) All have transgressed (2:26, 29)

4. Last Love Lost – God turned His back on His people

- (a) Constant rejection after continuous warnings (2:32, 25:3, 32:33)
- (b) Hard hearted (rebellious), stiff-necked (stubborn), deaf ears (disobedient) (5:23, 28, 32:33)
- (c) People of Israel & Judah provoked God to anger (7:19-20, 21:5, 25:6-7, 32:26-35)
- (d) God rejects the false saviors created by His people (2:37, 14:3)
- (e) God temporarily rejects His people for a time of discipline (6:30, 12:7, 15)
- (f) God promises judgment upon them from the rising power—The Babylonians (4:5; 19)

(g) Six occurrences of bride & bridegroom (2:2) (2:32) (7:34, 16:9, 25:10) (33:11)

5. Lost love First – God turned His face towards His people (Romans 3:3-4a, 10-12; Genesis 3:9)

- (a) Does this mean that God has rejected us forever? (Jeremiah 3:1; Deuteronomy 24:1-4)
- (b) Romans 3:3-4a “What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithfulness nullify the faithfulness of God? By no means!
- (c) God will always remain faithful to His covenant (Romans 3:9-18, 23-25, Jeremiah 32:40-41)
- (d) God comes searching for us when we are lost from His presence (Genesis 3:9—“where are you?”)
- (e) Even Solomon was shown mercy in which he was given one tribe "Judah" in whose line the Messiah was born (Jeremiah 33:14-16, Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:6)

6. Take Away

Return (turn back) to your first love (God) by removing (turning away from) all your other lovers—idols (Jeremiah 4:1-4, 15:19, 30:14)