**Jeremiah 5 (Lesson 4a)**

**I. Text Of Chapter 5 – Necessity For The Impending Judgment (3 min.)**

A. They Made Their Faces Harder Than Flint (5:1-6) – God wants to forgive (v. 1)

1. Jeremiah is told to search for anyone that is righteous (cf. Gen. 18:22-33). Anticipates Diogenes’ search in Greece. *“...The little good that was left in the land was driven out of sight by the prevailing wickedness, and exercised no appreciable effect upon it”* (Streane)

2. Stubbornness and hardheartedness rampant (cf. Ezek. 2:3-5; 3:5-7). Oaths violated (cf. Dt. 6:13-15; 10:20; Lev. 19:12).

3. Jeremiah tried, but found that sin existed at all levels (Harrison, 75).

4. For this reason, lions, leopards, and wolves were coming.

B. Sexual Impurity (5:7-9) – God wants to forgive (v. 1); cf. Hos. 4:11-14

1. Lusty stallions; time on their hands, lust in their hearts (cf. 1Thess. 4:3ff).

2. Forgetting their fullness in God resulted in emptiness (cf. Dt. 8:10-12).

3. *“When a nation deifies sex, the righteous remnant within can only shudder at the consequences to come!”* (Humphries, 55)

C. They Had Lied About The Lord (5:10-18) – cf. vv. 14-18 w/ Deut. 28:49-53

1. A severe pruning would take place (cf. Jn. 15:1-6), but not everyone would be cut off (cf. Jer. 4:27; 5:10, 18; 30:11; 46:28).

2. The false prophets were full of hot air (cf. Mic. 3:11). God’s true prophets would be like a consuming fire & destroy boasters (cf. Is. 10:15-19).

3. *Enduring nation* is literally, ever full & is used of non-wadi streams

D. They Have A Revolting And Rebellious Heart (5:19-24)

1. Judah’s choice to serve foreign gods in YHWH’s land will result in their serving foreign peoples in a foreign land (2:13; 16:13). Poetic justice.

2. v. 21 – *w/o understanding* in Hebrew is without heart/heartless

E. They Forsake The Orphan And The Needy (5:25-29; cf. James 1:26f).

1. Rather than be rich in the Lord, these people were rich off the sweat of others (Am. 4:1; Mic. 3:1-3). They were expert hunters (cf. Ezek. 34).

2. Selfish greediness was their chief priority (cf. Amos 2:6-8; Mic. 3:2-4).

F. They Loved Lawlessness (5:30f) – Makes one think of the *Cops* theme song

1. Even if the truth is painful, it is better than lies! (cf. Is. 59:14; Jn. 3:19-21)

**II. Thought Questions For Chapter 5**

A. What is the intended goal of divine discipline? (cf. 5:3) What passages relate?

B. What about God’s Word makes it consuming and what about people’s response makes them consumable? (cf. 5:14) What does this tell us about today?

C. How is Babylon described in chapter 5? (cf. Is. 28:11; 22:19; 47:6; Hab. 1:5-11)

D. What sorts of good things might be withheld from us b/c of our sins? (cf. 5:25)

E. Compare translations for 5:30. Which translations are preferable?

**III. Applications For Chapter 5**

A. Don’t preach simply to tickle the ears of people; preach to storm the will in the hour of need (cf. Mic. 2:11; 3:11; 2Tim. 4:2-4; Acts 20:26f; Col. 1:28).

B. Consonance between life and lips (Ps. 34:12ff; 1Pet. 3:10f; Heb. 13:15f)

C. What connections may be made between 5:10f & Jn. 15:1-6? (cf. Matt. 3:8)

D. Scrupulous honesty in all social relationships (Mk. 10:19; 1Thess. 4:6; Titus 2:10)

E. *“Christ is only the author of eternal salvation to those who obey Him (cf. Heb. 5:9), and under the new covenant the willful and rebellious cannot expect to fare any differently from their old covenant precursors.”* (Harrison, 78)

**Jeremiah 6 (Lesson 4b)**

**I. Text Of Chapter 6 – Rejection of a Worthless People (3 minutes to read)**

A. War Is Coming; Flee Jerusalem! (6:1-9)

1. vv. 1f –Jerusalem a border city (cf. Ps. 122:1f; 127:1) Trumpet for destruction (Amos 3:6) instead of for worship (Num. 10:1-10).

2. v. 3 – Jerusalem will be pastureland for the enemy!

3. vv. 4f – Hebrew: *sanctify war*. War was seen as directed and ordered by the gods. Does Babylon know YHWH’s decree? There will be no rest!

4. vv. 6-8 – Jerusalem is a fountain of wickedness! (cf. Is. 2:3) Be warned!

5. v. 9 – The enemy will keep coming back for more! (cf. 39:5-10; 41:1-10; 42:19-22; 52:15, 24-30) Israel as a vineyard in Is. 5.

B. Hope Is Found In Seeking The Old Paths (6:10-30)

1. vv. 10-16 – The deception of the false prophets; Jeremiah is unheeded

a. Jeremiah sees the situation as hopeless. He is weary from delivering oracles of judgment (cf. 20:9). God tells him to keep going.

b. Even when Jeremiah did reach people, false prophets soon came in and soothed the people with false words. *“It is as if a doctor prescribed a bandaid and an aspirin to treat a cancer, then told his patient, ‘Everything will be all right.’”* (L.A. Mott Jr., 54)

2. vv. 17-30 – Their refusal to repent made them like worthless dross

a. Contrast this brazenness with attitudes at the inauguration of covenants between YHWH and His people.

b. Religious form w/o heart is worthless (cf. Is. 1:11-15; Am. 5:21-24).

c. No tears of repentance will result in tears of destruction.

d. *“They were grievous revolters, incurably rebellious. The smelter made every effort to find precious metal, but there was no silver in that ore to be separated from the dross. Hence, they have all become ‘reprobate silver.’ Though once they were precious (Deut. 5:27- 29), they have become dross (Isa. 1:22).”* (Harkrider, 25)

e. *“...his prophetic ‘fire’ has been unable to remove the impurities from the natural ‘silver’. Whereas ore will yield its riches to the refiner, the human will is frequently quite intractable (cf. Rom. 1:18- 32).”* (Harrison, 84; cf. Mott, 57)

**II. Thought Questions For Chapter 6**

A. How might “love” or “peace” be falsely defined & compound judgment? (cf. 6:14)

B. What does it mean to not be able to blush? (cf. 6:15) What positive role does shame serve for believers? How can it be negatively applied?

C. What does it mean to walk in the old paths? (cf. 6:16) How does this relate to us today? Does this passage mean that tradition is on par with Scripture? Where else do we find the expression, “and you will find rest for your souls”?

D. How do we cope with the frustration of sharing the gospel with hardened people? How do we cope with false teachers undoing our efforts?

**III. Applications For Chapter 6**

A. Religion without delight in God’s Word is poisonous (cf. Matt. 13:13-15).

B. Covetousness mixes up our values (cf. Luke 12:15-21).

C. We should beware false prophets/teachers (cf. Matt. 7:21-23; Luke 6:46; 1Jn. 4:1).

D. Shame serves a vital purpose (cf. 2Cor. 7:10; Rom. 2:21-25).