**Jeremiah 15 (Lesson 9a)**

**I. Text Of Chapter 15 – “Check Yourself!” (3 min. to read)**

A. God Is Adamant About Judgment (15:1-9; carryover 14:19ff; Ps. 99:6; Ezek 14:14)

1. *“Though Moses and Samuel had earlier interceded successfully for sinful Israel...they had first secured the co-operation of the nation, which Jeremiah still had not been able to accomplish.”* (Harrison, 102)

2. Four punishments are coming: plague, sword, famine, and captivity. Dogs, carrion birds, & wild beasts eat those who die (see Humphries 165).

3. Manasseh’s great folly (2Kgs. 21:10-15; 23:26; 24:3; 2Chron. 33:12-17).

4. God is tired of their rebellion (cf. 18:8-10; Is. 40:30f).

5. Widows lament the destruction (cf. Amos 8:9f; Lk. 23:28-31; *Private Ryan*).

B. The Embattled Prophet & God’s Reassurance (15:10-21; cf. Matt. 5:10-12)

1. Jeremiah’s Agony Over God’s Rejection (15:10-14)

a. Jeremiah found a bitter response from the recalcitrant people and considered his reputation as that of a loan shark (26:8; 38:4).

b. God promises relief in due time (cf. 21:1-6; 37:3; 42:1-6). In the meantime, God assures him the message needed to be spoken.

2. Joy & Pain At God’s Word (15:15-18; cf. Acts 8:39; Phil. 4:1; 1Cor. 4:9-13)

a. Jeremiah asks God to: remember, visit, take vengeance, preserve

b. God’s Word devoured was bittersweet (Ezek. 2:3-3:3; Rev. 10:9-11).

c. God seen as a *wadi*, but really a fountain of living waters (cf. 17:13).

3. God’s Reply (15:19-21) See Harrison, 103f.

a. *“Jeremiah is called upon to repent. His words had approached blasphemy, but the Lord understood. Jeremiah is human, and like all, he needed to correct his attitude (cf. Jer. 31:18; Lam. 5:21). There was still the precious gold of faith and trust in his heart which needed to be taken ‘from the vile.’”* (Harkrider, 46)

b. *“Get back to work”* (cf. 9:2; 20:7-18; see Humphries, 169).

**II. Thought Questions For Chapter 15**

A. What connections may be made b/w 15:1 & events/passages like: the exodus from Egypt (sp. Ex. 13:21f), the withdrawal of the Spirit from the Temple (Ezek. 8:4; 9:3, 18f; 11:22f), & rebuke of the church in Laodicea (Rev. 3:20)?

B. What sort of behaviors of Manasseh had resulted in this condemnation? (15:4) Do the sins of the past have bearing on the present/future? Any limitations?

C. Does God ever get tired? (15:6) How are we to consider this and take it to heart?

D. What aspect of the Abrahamic covenant does 15:8 undo? (see Gen. 22:17)

**III. Applications For Chapter 15**

A. Righteous people have an influence on the world, but the influence of the righteous does not guarantee that the world will always be in a place that benefits from their intercession (15:1; 2Co. 5:10; Ro. 2:6-11; Rev. 20:11-15).

B. *“Her sun has set while it was yet day”* (15:9). National, collective potential in service to God may be utterly wasted to point of national premature death.

C. In our lamentations in hours of trouble, we need to be ever vigilant to not cross the line of irreverence. God is open to hearing about our frustrations and distresses, He yearns for us to carry those to Him (Ps. 55:22; 1Pet. 5:7), but there is a point where we presume to far.

D. Constant callbacks to God’s promises serve well (15:20; cf. 1:17-19; Mott, 97).

**Jeremiah 16 (Lesson 9b)**

**I. Text Of Ch. 16 – “No Wife For Jeremiah” (<3 min. to read)**

A. Three Injunctions (16:1-9)

1. vv. 1-4 – No wife (Mt. 24:19; 1Cor. 7:26, 29-35); illustrates inevitable doom

2. vv. 5-7 – No mourning (Ezek. 24:15-27); commonness of death will prevent this & also demonstrate God’s lack of mercy in the ensuing judgment; Heb. for mourning is *marzeah* (cf. Amos 6:7) an onomatopoeia. Pagan mourning practices forbidden in the Law (cf. Lev. 19:28; Deut. 14:1; Is. 22:12; Jer. 41:5; 47:5; Amos 8:10; Mic. 1:16). Comfort in food & drink discussed in: 2Sam. 3:35; 12:17; Ezek. 24:17; Hos. 9:4; Deut. 26:14).

3. vv. 8f – No feasting (cf. Eccl. 7:1-4); *“Jeremiah was denied the common joys in order to impress them that these pleasures were soon to be withdrawn from all.”* (Harkrider, 48)

B. The Destiny Of Judah (16:10-18)

1. Since they did not know God, they will be sent to an unknown land. God sarcastically says they will still love other gods (cf. Dan. 3:1-7).

2. A new exodus will be remembered (vv. 14f; repeated in 23:7f). LA Mott Jr. (98) calls these verses, *“A ray of light gleaming through the clouds, sustaining the faith and hope of the godly, keeping them from despair.”*

3. Their doubling down on sin will cause God to double down on judgment.

C. God’s Name Must Be Vindicated (16:19-21)

1. *“Jeremiah clings with the strong arms of faith to the Lord who will be his refuge in the day of affliction (cf. Psa. 27:1; 28:8). He knew God had promised both the restoration of Israel (cf. 3:14-19) and the conversion of the Gentiles (cf. 3:17). One day the Gentiles will recognize the futility of serving idols.”* (Harkrider, 49)

2. *“It is for this very reason, in order to bring about this result, that Jehovah must reveal himself in the events of history. His power will be put on display in the coming events and men will come to recognize his power.”* (Mott, 99)

**II. Thought Questions For Chapter 16**

A. What significance is found in Jeremiah’s singleness & lack of social involvement? Are these limits lifted once judgment on Jerusalem is accomplished? (16:1-4)

B. What applications regarding sanctification can be derived from 16:1-4?

C. What similarities appear between the Last Supper/Lord’s Supper and 16:7?

D. What is the point of the imagery in 16:16?

**III. Applications For Chapter 16**

A. The heart is incredibly deceitful and can be fully invaded by Satan if we submit to him (16:12; cf. 17:9; Mk. 7:21f; e.g. Cain in Gen. 4:7; Judas in Jn. 13:27).

B. God is the Deliverer. That’s how we should see Him and that’s how we should see ourselves (16:14f).

C. One of Satan’s greatest tactics is convincing us that our sins are hidden & will not be revealed (16:17f). The truth is that while sin may be hidden from others, it is never hidden from God and it will be revealed to all at the Judgment.

D. In Exodus and Ezekiel, God repeatedly uses the phrase, *“Then they shall know that I am the Lord.”* Jeremiah uses it here as well (16:21). We need to see that in all things, prosperity or judgment, that God is to be recognized & glorified.