**Jeremiah 13:1-27**

***“When Life Goes Sour”***

Introduction:

1. Have you ever seen life go sour? It’s when that which is good goes bad.

2. In Jeremiah 13 we have five word pictures and the problem of each. The good becomes

 bad:

Has the good gone bad? Has your life gone sour?

**I. THE LINEN BELT...*DEVALUATION* 13:1-11**

The waistband or linen belt was not a sash, but a thigh length undergarment that clung to

 the body. It symbolized the closeness of Israel to God’s heart.

1. ***The Instructions***
2. A picture is worth a thousand words.
3. God is the instructor…*Thus saith the Lord (1) the word of the Lord (2)*

*The word of the Lord (3) the word of the Lord (8) saith the Lord (11)*

1. God takes the physical things of life to produce the spiritual. God is trying to get through to us!
2. ***The Illustration***
3. Go to the local store and buy a new belt, put it on…don’t put it in water. *I bought the belt…I put it on (2)*
4. Somehow everyone would notice. A linen waistband was part of the priests’ wardrobe. It was not so of a prophet. He became a public spectacle.
5. Jeremiah did a strange thing. He went to Perath which is the Euphrates R. It was 350 miles away. It would have taken several months. **He buries it!** If this were an object lesson, in 3 months there would be no belt. It would give an opportunity to prophesy. (3-5)
6. He waits awhile and then he gets the waistband. The linen was marred and good for nothing. **It was thread bare and dirty!**

***C. The Intention***

 *“After this manner I will mar the pride...”*

1. The reason for the marring is given (10) *Evil people* *who refuse to hear my words…who walk in the imagination of their heart and walk after other gods, to serve them, to worship them.*
2. *They shall be like this belt:* ***good for nothing!* Devaluation:** a thing of worth becomes worthless!
3. *I have caused to cling to Me…*that’s what they were supposed to do!
4. *“****For*** *a People…****For*** *a Name...****For*** *a Praise...****For*** *a Glory”…****They would not hear!*** (11)
5. Man was created to bring glory and honor to God. When we do, we are a new waistband. If you trust in money, ability, family, anything besides Jesus Christ…we become marred…worthless!
6. If your life is not dedicated to bringing honor and glory to God, then the waistband becomes threadbare and worthless when it comes to your primary purpose.
7. **You were made to be God’s brightest ornament of all creation. The good has become bad, and your life is sour!**

Has the good gone bad? Has your life gone sour?

**II. THE FULL WINE JAR...*DEGRADATION* 13:12-14**

1. ***The Author*** *thus saith the Lord (12, 13, 14)*
2. Again, God is trying to break through.
3. He takes the everyday things to break in and to allow us to check our priorities.
4. ***The Analogy***
5. The wineskin was a jar. The largest found in excavation holds 10 gallons.
6. Jeremiah quotes a popular saying of that day: *Every wine jar shall be filled with wine.* It was an indication of prosperity, provision and peace. All were signs of God’s blessing.
7. They say, *Do we not know that every wine jar shall be filled with wine?!* “Pour us another round. Every jar shall be filled with wine!”
8. That which is good becomes bad! God says, *“I am going to fill with drunkenness all who live in this land.”* That was kings, priests, prophets and people.
9. All will roll out the barrels! This is the wine of God’s wrath!

***They indeed all knew that wine jars are made for wine, but they did not understand***

 ***that they were the wine jars.***

1. They were to bring God’s prosperity, provision, and peace. Everyone was getting drunk on her. **Degradation: she was a shame and a disgrace!**

**\*God wasn’t being seen at all!**

 \****They were so taken up with living selfishly...to the fullest!***

Has the good gone bad? Has your life gone sour? **Devaluation…Degradation**

**III. THE DARK MOUNTAIN...*DECIMATION* 13:15-17**

Light is good, but it’s getting dark quickly. The good and best things in life are daylight.

 You start with something and end up with nothing!

 ***A. The Problem 15,16a***

**1.** *“Hear...Give Ear... Be Not Proud...Give Glory to the Lord your God”*

**2.** These are always our problems.

***B. The Path 16b***

**1.** You walk into the woods late in the afternoon. The sun goes down. Night in the

 woods is dark!

 **2.** Have you ever been lost in the woods, and it is getting dark or night has fallen??

 ***C. The Pain 17***

**1.** Judah was going to be led into the darkness of captivity.

 **2.** Pride stops everything and causes tears to flow. We get carried away!

 **3. Decimation:** ***Sin has diminishing returns IT ALWAYS TAKES JUST A***

 ***LITTLE MORE...The flesh is never satisfied...darkness comes...we are captured!***

Has the good gone bad? Has your life gone sour?

**IV. THE ROYAL DISGRACE...*DEMOTION* 13:18-21**

The fourth good that went bad is the royal family.

 ***A. The Crisis 18,19***

 **1.** The king and his mother (who was an important figure in Israel) will be taken from

 their throne. Jehoiachin is taken captive and his mother Nehushta. All the

 treasure was taken to Babylon.

 ***B. The Capture 20,21***

**1.** *Where is the flock?*

**2.** *Shall not sorrows take thee as a woman in travail?*

 *\**Even kings and queens are subject to Him.

 *\*****We never rise so high that we cannot be brought down!***

Has the good gone bad? Has your life gone sour?

**V. THE YOUNG MAIDEN...*DEGENERATION* 13:22-27**

You never know how low you will go.

***A. The Promiscuity 22-25***

**1.** A sweet young thing becomes unfaithful and resorts to prostitution.

 **2.** With Israel, temple prostitution was part of false religion.

 ***B. The Punishment******26,27***

**1.** The Babylonian soldiers violated the Jewish women.

 **2.** The stripping was that of an adulteress. They were *stripped before God.*

 *How long will you remain unclean?*

  **3.** Can a black man change the color of his skin? Can a leopard change its spots?

 **4. Neither can you do good!** The ultimate answer to Jeremiah’s question is the work

 of Christ on the Cross.

**You will be unclean until Jesus Christ makes you clean!**

***Only Jesus Christ Can Make All Things New!!!***