**Jeremiah 14:1-22**

**“When We Don’t Connect The Dots”**

**Introduction:**

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wz0j7z38LIg

1. Are you connecting the dots of your life?

2. In Jeremiah 14:1-22 Judah and Jeremiah didn’t connect the dots:

Are you connecting the dots of your life? When You Don’t:

**I. THE DRYNESS 14:1-6**

 **A. The Missing Dot Of God’s Word 1**

 1. A drought is a horrible thing. (Lam. 4:4-5, 8) v. 1 describes this drought.

 2. The Palestinian Covenant provides the dot. (Deut. 28:15, 23, 24*): But it shall*

 *come to pass, if you will not hearken to the voice of the Lord, to observe to do all*

 *all of His commandments…cursed shall be (read vss. 23, 24)*

 3. To Judah it was dry. That’s all they saw. They missed the reason for the dryness,

 which was the lack of obedience to God’s Word.

 **B. The Missing Dot Of God’s Way 2,3**

 He takes the physical things of life to produce the spiritual.

 1. There was weeping and wailing all over the country. (v. 2)

 2. There was no water. The people were crushed. They were caught up with the

 external and missed what God wanted to do internally.

 3. To them this was just a natural occurrence, a nature occurrence. They couldn’t see

 that God was showing them a picture of their lives.

 4. God brings us to a place of brokenness.

 **C. The Missing Dot Of God’s Witness 4-6**

 1. The earth and nature become an object lesson.

 2. The earth is so hard that it cracks. Plowmen are ashamed. Doe leaves her young.

 There is not milk because there is no grass. (5)

 Donkeys sniff the air. Eyesight fails because of no nourishment. (6)

 3. The whole creation groaned under the weight of Judah’s sin. They didn’t get it!

 4. As a nation we don’t get it. We don’t recognize the judgment of God. We have

 late term and after birth ‘abortions’…drive by shootings…look at what is

 happening to our children…perversion…permissiveness…promiscuity…drugs…

 alcohol…the loss of innocence…fear…abuse. We never think there may be a

 message in hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, war, unrest.

 5. As individuals can we hear the voice of God all around us?

Are you connecting the dots of your life? When You Don’t:

**II. THE DISTRESS 14:7-12**

 **A. Omnipresence 8**

 God is everywhere, but to Israel, God is absent!

 1. Where is God when you need Him?

 2. To Jeremiah He seemed like a bystander, a passerby or a tourist. God wasn’t doing it

 the way Jeremiah would have done it.

 3. *Why is He so present a commander in our time of prosperity and so very absent a*

 *help in time of trouble? C.S. Lewis*

 **B. Omnipotent 9**

 God is all powerful. God can do anything. God seemed impotent!

 1. *Why are you a man taken by surprise, like a warrior powerless to save?*

 2. If God is powerless to save them, then He is not all powerful. We feel helpless. We

 think that He is like us. The problem was not with God, but Israel or us.

 **C. Obstinance 10-12**

 1. It’s Not God...It’s Us! 10

 \*(Deut. 11:16, 17)

 \*God’s people were suffering because of their sins! *They wandered (10)* They loved it!

 He remembered their iniquities. He will punish their sin.

 2. Since We Won’t...God Won’t 11

 \*This is the third time Jeremiah is told not to intercede.

 \*Israel was playing games. They didn’t mean business!

 3. They Kept Up A Religious Front...God isn’t impressed with empty religion 12

 \*If He seemed absent or impotent, it was because His people were suffering the

 consequences of sin.

 \*When you leave God out of a nation, you have atheism or secularism.

 \*A nation who does away with an absolute standard will have no morality…no

 homes…no hope, and no authority or authority figures.

 \*There are consequences. The problem of evil in the world must be placed at the

 door of humanity.

 \*The problems we have with God are of our own making. Does God seem distant?

 Who moved? Sin estranges the believer from God. *Draw near to God and He*

 *will draw near to you.*

Are you connecting the dots of your life? When you don’t:

**III. THE DISTORTION 14:14-16**

 *You will listen to someone...who you listen to will determine whether you connect*

 *the dots or not!*

 **A. False Prophets 14**

 1. Some Who Claim To Be ‘Truth’ Aren’t. *Prophets prophesy lies in my name.*

 2. Just Because They Use The Name ‘Jesus’, Is No Sign They Are From God.

 3. They Speak...they say what you want to hear...what they say just isn’t going

 to happen.

 4. You Accept A Lie Over The Truth...because that is what you want to hear.

 **B. Final Punishment 15,16**

 1. They Who Claim To Be From Me, But Are Not…

 2. Judgment is coming on and because of false preachers.

 3. You Can’t Reject the Truth Of God And Not Pay! Judah thought they would never fall.

 That’s what the preacher said!

Are you connecting the dots of your life? When you don’t:

**IV. THE DIRECTION 14:20-2**

 When you can’t connect the dots...start with prayer. By the end of chapter 14 Jeremiah has

 run out of tears (v. 17) and arguments. There is only one thing left for him to do…Pray!

 **A. Prayer Of Confession 20**

 1. There is a full confession of sin. Many sins are listed in (v. 7) *Wickedness…*

  *Iniquity…sinned…All sin…All kinds of sin.*

 2. The only thing God can forgive is sin. It’s not my family. It’s not just the way I am.

 It’s not my brother. It’s not my sister. It’s me. Draw a circle and take care of the one

 on the inside.

 **B. Prayer Of Consecration 21**

 1. This is a plea for God’s mercy in light of His glory. (ss. 7a, 9b)

 2. Jeremiah was not selfish when he prayed. His primary motive was not to be

 delivered from his misery.

 3. His prayer was motivated by a vision of God’s glory. For God’s sake…

 Do Something! (7)

 **C. Prayer Of Commitment 22**

 *Turn the situation over to Him...only He can do it!*

 1. Only God Can Answer Prayer.

 2. Little ‘gods’ are always inadequate.

 3. God is the only source and solution to what you need. Jeremiah rejected every

 solution to the problem: *therefore, we wait for You.* Do you need forgiveness?

 Do you need encouragement? Do you need wisdom? Do you need friendship?

 **God is the only source. God is the only solution. What do you need?**

***When you ask Him to do something for His own sake...HE WILL SURELY DO IT!***