

Jeremiah 3:1-18

Homesick For Home

Introduction

1. Have you wandered far from 'home'?
2. Jeremiah 3:1-18 God's people start to experience the first pangs of homesickness. They have wandered far from God. God wants Israel to return. *You have lived with many lovers...would you now return to Me? (3:1)*

Have you wandered far from 'home'?

I. FAR FROM HOME 3:1-5

The first thing God's people must realize is how far away from home they really are!

A. **Their Boldness 1**

1. *If a man divorce his wife and she leaves him and marries another man, should he return to her again? Would not the land be completely defiled?*
2. How can God move back in with His people?
3. Israel has lived as a prostitute with many lovers (false gods). Do you have other lovers other than Jesus Christ?

B. **Their Belittlement 2a**

1. *Is there any place where you have not been ravished? Lift up your eyes to the bare heights and see. Where have you not been violated?*
2. "Violated" is a powerful word. It is an obscene word for sexual violence.
3. Although God's people were looking to have a good time, they have been getting violated.
4. The pleasure of sin looks good for a season. It lasts longer than you would believe and costs you more than you can imagine. False gods are always abusive!!

C. **Their Behavior 2b**

1. This shows how far from God His people have strayed.
2. *In the way Thou has sat for them.* They behaved like prostitutes sitting at the crossroads in the desert. They are just sitting there waiting to make love to idols.
3. You are just waiting to fill a God-shaped emptiness. You will try anything!

D. **Their Brashness 3**

1. They have no shame!
2. *You have the brazen look of a prostitute. You refuse to blush.*
3. You are no longer embarrassed. You no longer hide your sin. Everyone knows it! You don't care.

E. **Their Barrenness**

1. *Therefore the showers have been withheld.*
2. There is no rain. The blessings from God have stopped. Life is dry. There is no purpose!

F. **Their Burden 4, 5**

1. *My Father, you are the friend of my youth.* When you were young, God was your friend. It is a long ago memory. *My Father...*
2. You question God. God is unfair. He is unreasonable. *Behold, you have spoken and done evil things! You have had your way.* You are paying for the consequences of sin, and you blame God for your problems. *Behold, you have spoken and done evil things.*

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II. FAILURE AT HOME 3:6-11

Judah's sister was Israel, the 10 northern tribes that were taken captive in 722 B.C. Judah should have learned from Israel's down fall. We should learn from the failure of other believers. *Backslidden/backsliding* are key words in this passage. The other important word is *Treacherous*. The lesson is to learn from the failure of others.

A. **Failure To Learn From The Mistakes Of Others 6**

The northern kingdom, Israel, did what you are doing.

B. **Failure To Turn To God 7**

God pleads, but she won't turn. Judah saw it!

C. **Failure To Consider The Consequences 8a**

1. *Backsliding Israel committed adultery...I had put her away...I had given her a bill of divorcement...YET*

2. Learn from the backsliding and failure of others. See how the blessing of God ceased in their lives. Watch when you struggle to fill the God-shaped emptiness.

D. **Failure To See The Seriousness Of Her Act 8b**

1. *Judah feared not, and did the same thing.*
2. You are doing the same thing.

E. **Failure To See The Futility Of Her Choices 9**

1. *Lightness...she defiled the land and committed adultery with stones and trees...these were the material of their lovers (gods).*
2. You are cheating on God with things that don't matter and things that won't last. These things will never satisfy.

F. **Failure To See The Great The Light, the Greater the Responsibility and the Greater the Tragedy 10, 11**

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III. FOLLOW TO HOME 3:12-15

How do we get back home?

A. **A Call From God** through His Word **Return 12**

1. If you return, then God will do His part.
2. *I will not...cause mine anger to fall upon you. I am merciful. I will not keep anger forever.*

B. **A Challenge From God Acknowledge your sin 13**

1. **Admit you have sinned...transgressed.**
2. **Be specific...you have not obeyed My voice**

C. **A Charge From God Turn (Repent) 14**

1. *For...I am married to you...I will take you...I will bring you...*
2. **It's All of Grace!**

D. **A Communication From God 15**

Listen to the voice of God through men of God!

1. He is a gift from God!
2. *I will give you shepherds...after mine own heart...who shall feed you knowledge and understanding. **God is speaking to you through me!***

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IV. FULFILLMENT AT HOME 3:16-18

Jeremiah is speaking about the Millennial Kingdom...Jesus reigns! It's when Jesus sits on the throne of our lives that this becomes a reality!

A. **His Promises** notice: *shall*

1. This is future. God has something in mind for Israel that is yet future.
2. God's greatest gifts are yet to come!

B. **His Presence 16**

1. *They shall say no more...the ark of the covenant...neither shall it come to mind...neither shall they remember it...neither shall they miss it. **Why?***
2. **Jesus is there!** The ark was a sign or symbol of the presence of God. God wants us to move from religion to reality as we practice the presence of God.
3. **There was no use to look any further!**

C. **His Peace 17, 18a**

1. **Internal** *neither shall they walk anymore after the imagination of an evil heart!*
2. **External** *Israel shall come together.*

**When Jesus Christ sits upon the throne of your life it will change your walk!
The God-shaped emptiness is filled!**

D. **His Possessions 18b**

1. *The land will be given to Israel as an inheritance. **He shares all that is His with me!***
2. *They shall come out of the north...all they have looked for and longed for will be theirs. **THEY WILL BE HOME!***

We are never 'home' until Jesus is Lord of our lives and sits on the throne!!