**Jeremiah 3:19-4:4**

***“True Repentance”***

Introduction:

1. We say the right words, but is there any change? Are you willing to adjust your life?

2. True Repentance Is More Than Saying, *“I’m Sorry!”*

3. In Jer. 3:19-4:4 this was Israel’s problem.

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**I. THE PLACE OF TRUE REPENTANCE 3:19-22a**

 ***A. The Place Of Disappointment 19***

**1.** Philip Yancey wrote a book several years ago: *Disappointment With God*. If

 God wanted to write a book He might entitle it: *Disappointment With People.*

 **2.** *“I thought you would call me Father, and not turn away from following Me.”*

**\***That is the way God wanted it to be. He wanted to treat His people like sons

 and daughters.

 \*He wanted to plant them in a beautiful garden. He wanted them to stay at home

 and call Him *Father* and really mean it.

 \*He wants us to have that same personal, intimate relationship.

 ***B. The Place Of Departure 20***

**1.** You left Him. He didn’t leave you. It didn’t turn out as anticipated.

 **2.** God’s people were supposed to be devoted to Him, like a bride to her husband.

 **3.** God wants us to be totally devoted to Him and Him alone.

 ***C. The Place Of Despair 21a***

**1.** Sin makes life very bitter.

 **2.** *They have perverted their way and forgotten the Lord their God.* Some feel these

 are cries of repentance. At this time, centers of idol worship were destroyed.

 **3.** It shows the despair of a godless society. This is a culture that has forgotten God.

 ***D. The Place Of Defilement 21b-22a***

**1.** This is a book about what happens to anyone who abandons God.

 **2.** Loud cries can be heard from the barren heights of our culture…weeping and

 pleading of people who have perverted their ways and forgotten God.

 **3.** It is the cry of Hollywood. It is the cry of abortion. It is the cry of the addicts:

 Sex…Drugs…Alcohol.

 **4.** God is not deaf, nor silent. The word, *return* is used 4 times. He invites His

 people to come: *“I will heal your backsliding.”* Even though you have been

 unfaithful, God wants you to come back home.

 **5.** How will Israel respond to His invitation?

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**II. THE PRAYER OF TRUE REPENTANCE 3:22b-25**

The words are right. What’s involved?

 ***A. God-directed 22b-23******True repentance recognizes who God is...***

**1. Powerful**...*The Lord, our God.* ***God is God!***

**\***They were worshiping everything, but God!

 \*The entire prayer is uttered with a proper sense of the majesty, holiness

 and righteousness of God.

 \*The *Lord God Almighty* is *Jehovah,* the great *I Am.* True repentance testifies

 that the Lord is God.

**2. Personal**...*our God*

\*The great Creator became my Savior.

 \*The God with whom we have a personal relationship, He is my God!

 \*They belong to Him. He belongs to them.

 \*Confession restores an intimacy of a love relationship.

**3. Pardoning**...*’salvation of Israel’*

 *\**He is the salvation of Israel.

 \*True repentance looks for salvation from God alone.

***B. God-departed 23******True repentance recognizes how sinful sin is.***

**1.** Once we get it straight as to who God is…*the path of sin too long I’ve trod.*

**2.** This prayer offers a full disclosure of sin. We quit calling it by some other name

 (mistakes, personality disorder, circumstances, pressures, etc.). We call sin…sin!

 **3.** When we come to God we must renounce anything and everything we have trusted

 to bring us joy, satisfaction, fulfillment, and pleasure apart from Christ.

 ***C. God-disobedient 24a-25******True repentance, God’s people must confess how costly***

 ***their sin has been.***

1. False gods are harsh task masters. They always damage the people who worship them.
2. *Hath devoured their sons and daughters.* The evidence is mounting that God’s people were guilty of child sacrifice. Some gods demanded the lives of their children, and they willingly offered them. The innocent always suffers.
3. No wonder v. 25a *We lie down in our shame…Let our disgrace cover us!*
4. *From our youth till this day…we have not obeyed the voice of our God.* True repentance includes repenting for past and present sins. True repentance is thorough: *We have sinned!*
5. **God is willing to forgive the vilest of sins!**

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**III. THE PRACTICE OF TRUE REPENTANCE 4:1-4**

God has heard it before, and He warns His people to follow through. ***It’s not enough to***

 ***pray the prayer; we must adjust our lives!***

***A. The Conditions 1,2***

God describes the kind of repentance He wants with 3 conditional sentences:

1. *If you will return unto Me Israel, return to Me.*
2. *If thou wilt put away thine abominations out of My sight.*
3. *If thou shalt swear the Lord liveth in truth, in justice and in righteousness…*

This verse has to do with worship. *Anyone who comes to praise God’s name must speak truly* (your heart echoes your lips). *Justly* speaks of your dealings with other people that must please God. *Righteously* has to do with your own personal holiness and it must please God.

 ***B. The Changes 3,4***

**1. Cultivate** Most Christians are satisfied with their present level of obedience to God.

 **\***That obedience is like a hanging basket or window box. It is a garden spot.

 **\***Jeremiah says: *Get the John Deere out of the barn, hitch it up. Put on the blows*

 *and head for the field. Break up the rocky soil of your heart.*

 **\****Take those weeds out while you’re at it.* We are ineffective. **We want to plant**

 **the flowers of heaven with the weeds of this world!**

 **2. Circumcise…**take away the foreskin of your heart!

 ***C. The Conclusions* If we do our part…God will come through!**

**1. Evangelization 2b**

\*Unless God’s people get right, the world won’t hear. *Nations will be blessed…*

 *In Him will they glory.*

 \***The world will never hear unless we get right!!**

 **2. Condemnation 1c, 4b**

 **\***Do you think that God’s grace allows you to ignore sin?

 \*What’s the difference in the sin of an unbeliever and a believer? **It’s worse in**

 **the believer!**

We say the right words, but is there any change? Are you willing to adjust your life?

***Don’t play with sin...everyone loses!!!***