Jeremiah 8:18-9:11

***Truth or Consequences***

Introduction:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_bkNkrWdz8&feature=youtu.be>=

1. America has set aside Absolute Truth. We are taught that all truth is ‘relative’.

2. Could that be a reason that truth is so difficult to find in America?

3. We have lost the wisdom to know where truth ends and falsehood begins.

4. In Jeremiah 8:18-9:11 Judah had a similar problem...when you lay aside Absolute

 Truth there are Consequences. Is it hard for you to be truthful?

Is it hard for you to be truthful? Why was Jeremiah weeping?

**I. THE CONFLICT WHEN ABSOLUTE TRUTH IS OPPOSED 8:18-22**

 ***A. In Spirit*** *...* the humanness of Jeremiah is evident. You have moved from your anchor.

**1. About His Relationship To God v. 18** He spoke to Him as friend to friend.

 \*One translation: *O my Comforter in sorrow, my heart is faint within me. NIV*

 *\**By the time Jeremiah is half way through (19b) *Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her*

 *king no longer there?*

 *\**God is supposed to be in Zion, because He has chosen Zion for His dwelling place.

 **\*Where is God? He doesn’t seem to be at home!** Jeremiah is close to God and

 then far from God. It is so human!

 **2. About His Relationship To God’s People v. 21** He announces solidarity with

 them. *For the daughters of Zion…I am broken (not black) They are crushed…I*

 *am crushed (9:2)*

 \*Jeremiah decides to abandon them completely: *That I might leave my people, and*

 *go from them.*

 *\**The lack of Absolute Truth leads to despair…despair leads to depression…which

 leads to a roller coaster existence.

 ***B. In Salvation 20***

**1.** This was true of Judah. This was a proverbial saying. The people had lost every

 opportunity given to them by God, now they were entirely without hope.

 **2.** There were two harvests in the ancient Middle East. There was a spring harvest and a

 summer harvest. If the spring harvest failed, one could always hope for a bumper

 crop in the summer. Here both harvests have failed. There is no hope for salvation.

 **3.** Is this true of you? You have had opportunity after opportunity and still, *We are not*

 *saved.* **If you reject Absolute Truth you will be lost!!**

***C. In Supply 22***

**1.** *“No balm in Gilead” “No Physician”* The prophet needed medical supplies to heal

 a wounded spirit. The pharmacy is completely out of healing salve.

 **2.** There was no medicine to cure them and no doctor to heal their wounds.

 **3.** The people were in need of salvation from sin, but Jeremiah didn’t know where to

 find aSavior.

 **4.** The African American spiritual *There is a balm in Gilead.* The *balm* is Jesus Christ.

 *There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole. There is a balm in Gilead to*

 *heal the sin sick soul. Sometimes I feel discouraged and I think my work’s in vain,*

 *but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. There is a balm in Gilead…*

Is it hard for you to be truthful? Why was Jeremiah weeping?

**II. THE COUNTERFEIT WHEN ABSOLUTE TRUTH IS OPPOSED 9:1-8**

The people of God were no longer people of the truth. Bypass the genuine and you are left

 with the false:

 ***A. False Friends 2, 8b***

Jeremiah’s people were not true in their personal relationships.

 **1.** They were a crowd of unfaithful people. 2

 **2.** *One speaketh peaceably to his neighbor with his mouth, but in his heart he lieth in*

 *wait.*

**3.** These were nice, polite and cordial to one’s face, but would stab you in the back.

 **4.** America is full of examples. Who can you trust? They may be polite, but they are

 not honest or truthful.

 ***B. False Faith 8:19c; 9:3,6***

The people didn’t speak the truth to God. Their relationship to Him was false.

1. *Worthless, foreign idols 8:19c*
2. *They go from one sin to another…they do not acknowledge Me. (9:3b)*
3. *You live in the midst of deception…they refuse to acknowledge Me (9:6)*

 \*We sing the songs: Take My Life and Let It be Consecrated…I Surrender All…

 **It costs us nothing!**

 **\***Our idols have just changed shape…materialism...security…pleasure…prestige

 **\***We go from one sin to another: alcohol, drugs, sex, gambling, pornography. We call them addictions. Where is the separation in the body of Christ?***Refuse to acknowledge Him…***

***C. False Families 9:2, 3-5a***

There was a falsehood in the home.

1. Husbands and wives were cheating on one another. (9:2)
2. Brothers and sisters were betraying one another. (9:4, 5a)
3. There is falsehood in the home. Many live together as if they were married. Divorce is at an all-time high in the church.
4. Some of the biggest fights are in the church. Some of the biggest hurts are from God’s people!

 ***D. False Face 9:3a, 8a, 5***

Every relationship was completely untruthful. (9:3a)

1. *They taught their tongues to lies and shoot poison darts. (9:8a)*
2. In the 1960s Francis Schaeffer warned: *Truth is worn down in the philosophy of our generation.* If truth was worn down in the 60s…it is worn out in the 21st century!

Is it hard for you to be truthful? Why was Jeremiah weeping?

**III. THE CONDEMNATION WHEN ABSOLUTE TRUTH IS OPPOSED 9:9-11**

Jeremiah was weeping because he knew that you could not reject God’s truth and not pay.

1. ***Pay Day Someday 9-11***
2. Do you think you can reject God’s Truth and not pay?!
3. There is a lack of truth because you have opposed Absolute Truth.

***B. Pay Day Surely***Note the: *“I will”*

**1.** God has the final say. God is the offended party.

 **2.** What does God say about a situation or circumstance? How does God feel?

***C. Pay Day Severely 10, 11***

**1.** A rejection of Truth leads to severe consequences.

 **2.** That which became normal... “*Everyone is doing it.”* **Society can become so**

 **corrupt that wrong is defended for right.**

***“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved!***

**Are you saved?**

**Are you truthful? Are you living a false life?**

**ONLY JESUS CAN CLEANSE!**