**Jeremiah 12:7-17**

***“Lost And Found”***

Introduction:

1. Man spends a life time trying to fill this God-shaped emptiness.

2. In Jeremiah 12:7-17 Man was created to have fellowship with God.

With what are you trying to fill this God-shaped emptiness?

**I. GOD’S CREATION 12:7-10**

Judah was God’s possession, as man was initially in the Garden.

 ***Man was created to have fellowship with God:***

 ***A. God’s Personal Possessions***

 *Note: “mine” and “my”* Israel belonged to God!

1. *Mine house…mine heritage (7) Mine heritage (8, 9)*
2. *My soul (7) My vineyard…My portion…My pleasant portion (10)*

 ***B. God’s Personal Presence 7,8***

**1.** *Note: “I”*

**2.** God is the initiator. He is the offended party. **It’s all about God, not me!** Man

 was created to have fellowship with God. Adam and Eve walked in the Garden.

 \*Communion was there! Then sin entered. Fellowship was broken.

 \*From that day to this: *As by one man sin entered the world, and death by sin,*

 *and death passed upon all for all have sinned. (Rom 5:12)*

With what are you trying to fill this God-shaped emptiness?

**II. GOD’S CONSCIOUSNESS** **12:7-9**

 ***Because of SIN, fellowship with God was broken.*** God is the offended party:

1. ***God’s Prerogative* *7***
2. *I have forsaken mine house…I have left mine heritage…I have given my dearly beloved into the hands of the enemy.*
3. Judah is turned over to Babylon. Prophetically, it’s as though it has already occurred.
4. God turned mankind over to sin and Satan. *He has turned everyone to his own way.*

 ***B. God’s Pain 8***

**1.** *Mine heritage is like a roaring beast.* That which He made is out to kill Him!

 **2.** *I hate her.* This is not a vengeful hatred. God’s protection and blessing is no

 longer there. **God hates sin!**

 **3.** If God is against you who can be for you?! You are fighting God. **You will lose!**

 ***C. God’s Perspective 9***

**1.** He is speaking of that which is odd or unusual. The birds of nearby countries are

 against her.

 **2.** *Come beasts devour…*Israel was going to be chewed up. God says, *“Come”.*

1. Life pecks on us. Life eats us up. Even those close to us turn against us. Life is BIG!

With what are you trying to fill this God-shaped emptiness?

**III. GOD’S CONDEMNATION 12:10-13**

 There is an evidence of broken fellowship. Judgment is coming…now and in the future. Four words of

 judgment: It is a picture of the lost!

***A. Destroyed 10***

**1.** God planted Israel as a vineyard. *Kings will come and trample my* *vineyard…my*

 *field…they have made my pleasant portion (field) a wilderness.*

 **2.** *Trampled…*Satan will stomp on everything you hold dear. **Your pleasant field**

 **will turn into a wilderness.**

***B*. *Desolate 11***

**1.** *Desolate* is used three times. It means ‘to stun, stupefy or lie in waste’ *Desolate*

 *It mourns before Me.*

**2.** Reason: *‘because no man lay it to heart!’* It’s all outside, external, exterior, **but**

 **not inside out.** These were religious people.

 **3.** *Wasted…Wasted…Wasted* How many will write that over their lives?

***C. Devoured 12***

**1.** *Enemies come in…the sword of the Lord shall devour. No flesh shall find peace!*

**2.**  *Eaten up...no flesh shall find peace!*

**3.** The lost are eaten up and they have no peace. They are so restless. They must go

 from one activity to another, from one partner to another, restless!

***D. Disappointed 13***

**1.** ‘They have sown wheat and shall reap thorns’

 **2**. ‘They work themselves to pain...for nothing’

 **3**. ‘Be ashamed of your harvest’

 **4.** What a threefold picture of the lost:

 \*You have sown joy (marriage, children, work, etc)…it comes up thorns.

 \*You work night and day…for what?

 \*Look at what grows in the garden of the unbeliever…misery, loneliness, betrayal, grief.

With what are you trying to fill this God-shaped emptiness?

**IV. GOD’S COMPASSION 12:14-17**

Grace is extended to restore that broken fellowship. Mercy is granted to the undeserving.

 Israel’s evil neighbors will be overrun by Babylon. God will restore them!

 ***A. Retribution 14***

**1.** Sin must be paid for...

 **2.** *I will pluck them out…* *“The soul that sinneth, it shall die.”* We all deserve to

 spend an eternity in hell.

 **3.** *The wages of sin is death…the wrath of God abides on them because they have not*

 *believed in the name of the son of God.*

**4.** *He that believeth not is condemned already, because he has not believed…*

***B. Restoration 15***

**1.** This speaks of immediate and future fulfillment.

 **2.** One moment judgment and the next moment…**grace.**

 **3. There is one way of salvation.**

 ***C. Revitalization 16***

**1.** They must forsake their foreign gods and worship the true God.

 **2.** The nations cannot be saved on their own terms or by their own gods. They must

 come to the one true God.

1. *I am the way the truth and the life, no man comes to the Father but by Me. (Jn. 14:6)*
2. *Neither is the salvation in any other for there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)*
3. *He that hath the Son hath life, he that hath not the Son of God hath not life (I John 5:12)*

***D. Reaction 17***

**1.** What will happen if they do not swear by His name?

**2.** *‘If they do not obey...’* They will not be saved...they will be destroyed.

***Man was created to have fellowship with God.***

***Because of sin, that fellowship was broken.***

***Jesus Christ came to answer the sin question and restore fellowship.***

***YOU MUST SURRENDER TO JESUS CHRIST IN ORDER***

***TO KNOW GOD’S LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP!!***