**Jeremiah 17:19-27**

***“Check Out Your Priorities”***

Introduction

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwyltmUR3MU> stop at 3:05

1. How are your priorities? What has taken the place of the things of God?

2. Jeremiah 17 had a similar problem as the church today. They had their priorities all messed

 up. So much had taken the place of the things of God.

How are your priorities? What has taken the place of the things of God?

**I. PRIORITIES ARE CHALLENGED 17:19-23**

 ***A. The Inspector 19,20***

*Thus saith the Lord…hear the word of the Lord*

**1. God Knows 19**

 **\***God knows what is important to us.

 \*God knows where to stand in order to get attention: *Stand in the gate where*

 *they go in and out (to do business)*

 *\**Stand right in the middle of your #1 priority. What’s most important to you?

 To those to whom Jeremiah was writing: *All the gates of commerce*…business

 and making money was their priority. What is #1 to you.

 **2. God Speaks 20**

*All Judah…all inhabitants of Jerusalem…kings of Judah*

 *\**Everyone has something that is important to them.

 \*All had the wrong priority. Whether rich or poor, educated or uneducated…

 everyone was consumed with the same thing. Greed and covetousness had

 taken the place of God.

 ***B. The Instruction 21,22***

These priorities were evident by what they did on the Sabbath. On the seventh day, it

 was business as usual. They turned the Sabbath day into market day. The fourth

 commandment *remember the Sabbath* was a picture of God’s rest. Like

 circumcision, which was a reminder that they were separated to God…they were to

 set the seventh day apart to God…**because they were set apart to God!**

 God rested on the seventh day and called the seventh day holy. That day was all

 about them. God says *“What about Me?”* You will say the Sabbath was part of the

 Law. We are not under the Law. What about Sunday??? What is taking the place

 of the things of God? Dance, Soccer, Wrestling, T-Ball, Work (when not required or

 necessary) You name it.

1. Priorities are gained from the world, not the Word. According to one scholar:

 *This pattern of a continuous week of seven days and the interruption of work on the last day of the week is quite unique in the Ancient Near East and has to be seen as a genuinely Israelite phenomenon.* Israel was taking its cue from the world.

 **2.** Priorities are seen by what we do and where we put our energy, effort and time.

 **3.** Priorities are seen by what we leave out. In this case it was God and the Sabbath.

 **4.** Priority here was greed, nice stuff, new wide screen t.v., nice wheels, the

 latest...it’s all about more! What is your excuse???

 **5.** Priorities tell our children what is important.

 **6.** *Neither do you hallow…*Replace the negative with a spiritual positive. Adjust

 your life. Stop that which has taken the place of the things of God with

 something positive.

 ***C. The Insistence 23***

 *“But they obey not...”*

1. *Shut ears…stiff necked…stone hearted.* You’ve already shut me off!! It’s not

they can’t, it’s they won’t! God can’t get through. It is so ingrained. They

 are so convinced.

1. Adjusting your priorities is hard. You have a spiritual problem that is evident in the physical. The physical: **that thing you put first…the thing that is in the place of the things of God.**

How are your priorities? What has taken the place of the things of God?

**II. PRIORITIES ARE COMMENDED 17:24-26**

 ***A. It Is Obedience 24***

 *“If you diligently hearken unto Me...”*

**1.** Whose voice are you listening to?

 **2.** You can’t keep doing it like everyone else.

 **3.** Replace what you want with what God wants.

 **4.** *Diligently…*Stop the half-hearted living for God...give Him your BEST!

 ***B. It is Ordained 25,26*** *If you do…I will do.*

The fourth commandment was essential. It was a barometer as to whether Israel

 loved God enough to give Him a day. There would only be a king on David’s

 throne as long as they did. Even the strength of the king’s army was depended on

 the Sabbath. Jerusalem would be inhabited forever. Note v. 26 the blessing of the

 Sabbath extended beyond the walls of Jerusalem to embrace the nation.

1. What may not seem important to you is important to God.

 **2**. What is a little thing to you is a BIG thing to God.

 **3.** God will bless those who adjust their lives.

 **4**. God will replace the temporary with the eternal and permanent. **It won’t last!**

 **5.** v. 26a Your life will be a blessing to others...**THE BLESSED BECOME A**

 **BLESSER**

 **6.** Your life will become a living sacrifice.

 **7.** Your life will be filled with praise, lived in the presence of God.

How are your priorities? What has taken the place of the things of God?

**III. PRIORITIES ARE CONDEMNED 17:27**

*Life Is Made Up Of Consequences...Our Choices Have Consequences*

 *“If you will not hearken unto Me…”*

**\*** There is always a price to pay when we don’t listen to God.

 **\*** It is a sad thing when God is against us. *“I will…”*

 **\*** *Devour the palaces…*The very place of priority is gone...one day it all will be gone!

 **\*** All we thought we wanted is gone... “*Nothing I lived for remained!!”*

*The wise man built his house upon the rock…*

*The foolish man builds his house upon the sand…*

***One day the rain will come…the winds will blow…***

***upon what are you building?***