**Jeremiah 2:1-37**

***Walking Out On God***

Introduction:

1. Have you walked out on God?

2. Jeremiah 2:1-37 God is taking His people to divorce court. This chapter is His legal testimony.

Have you walked out on God?

**I. THEY LOVED 2:1-3 *Devotion***

God remembers what the honeymoon was like. He pages through the photo album. There is an

 ache in His heart! *“I remember…”* Once Israel loved God like a newlywed.

1. ***Devotion*** *kindness*
2. God remembers the covenant faithfulness of Israel.
3. This is a word for unbroken promises, unshakable loyalty, unceasing devotion, unfailing loving kindness.

 ***B. Direction 2b*** *Through the desert…through a land that was not sown.*

**1.** She followed God wherever He led.

 **2.** Israel was young and in love and all she wanted to be was close to her husband.

 **3.** He didn’t fail to keep any of His wedding vows.

 ***C. Dependence 3,7***

**1. God’s Passion 3a** God had a passion for His bride.

 *Israel was holy to the Lord and the 1st fruits of His increase.*

 *\**He took her to love and cherish.

 \*He treated her with honor and respect.

 \*She was God’s best and most valuable possession.

 **2. God’s Protection 3b** *All that devour…*

 *\**If anyone attacked Israel they attacked God.

 \*God saved His wife and kept her safe.

 **3. God’s Provision 7a** *I brought you into a plentiful (fertile) country…*

\*God gave Israel a beautiful home.

 \*There was plenty of food in the fridge.

 \***What a picture of us and Jesus Christ.** That was then. Time to wake up and

 smell the burnt toast!

Have you walked out on God?

**II. THEY LEFT 2:4-8 *Departure***

How could it happen? The wedding was so beautiful! The honeymoon was wonderful! Where

 did it all go wrong? God did not leave His people. **They dumped Him!** God’s people walked

 out of the marriage. **If God does not seem as close as He used to, who moved?** Why would

 anyone move from God?

 ***A. They Followed 5b***

*They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves (5b)*

1. God’s people have been having an affair with empty, mist, vanity…worthless idols!
2. Idolaters grasp at thin air…**nothing at all!**

 ***B. They Forsook 6a***

**1.** The marriage between God and His people is dying of neglect.

 **2.** God’s people no longer seek after God. They no longer say, *Where is the Lord?*

**3.** They no longer recount and recite the mighty acts of salvation!

 ***C. They Forgot 7***

**1.** They forget the love that saved them!

 **2.** Remember what God has done in your life?!

 **3.** The road to spiritual adultery begins when you stop reveling in the love of God!

 ***D. They Failed 8***

**1.** The priests, prophets and kings were part of the problem (26).

 **2.** They were sleeping around with idols.

 **3.** *Those who deal with the law did not know me…***We are priests unto God!**

 **4. Their ministry was a dead ritual, not a living reality. It was not a living relationship!**

Have you walked out on God?

**III. THEY LOOKED 2:9-32 *Deviation***

This is not ‘irreconcilable differences’. God has legitimate grounds to terminate the marriage. It is

 infidelity of God’s people. They left their first love. What is it like when God’s people leave

 their Husband? **It’s unheard of!!**

 ***A. It’s Unimaginable! 10-12 It’s like a nation changing its gods.***

 *Has a nation ever changed its gods…11a*

1. Did the Canaanites abandon Baal? Did India abandon their Hindu gods?
2. God’s people left a glorious reality for idols made of stone and wood.
3. v. 12 Israel swapped partners. This was unheard of in the ancient world! Pagans never abandoned their dead gods, but Israel (God’s people) abandoned the living God!!

 ***B. It’s Unquenchable! 13-19 18,36,37 It’s like leaving a spring of living water.***

**1.** Imagine living in a desert and water is essential. A cistern would catch rainwater.

 Leaving a spring is a dumb idea, building a cistern with a crack in it is even dumber!

**2.** They substituted political alliances for their covenant, for their love relationship with

 God v. 18.

1. These nations are not friends. (14-16) Israel will be disappointed with their partners (36, 37)
2. Politics is a broken cistern. What is it like when God’s people leave their Husband?

***C. It’s Unbridled! 20a, 31******It’s like a beast breaking free of its yoke.***

**1.** Jerusalem is like a wild ox that smashed its yoke against the barn and run off into

 the field.

 **2.** On their way to the spiritual wilderness:*We will not serve You! (31)* God’s people

 are made to Serve. To reject servanthood is not freedom but bondage!

 ***D. It’s Unashamed! 20b******It’s like a prostitute on a street corner waiting for some action.***

**1.** God’s people were guilty of selling themselves.

 **2.** They were shacking up with gods they hardly knew. These were gods who would

 leave them!!

 ***E. It’s Unproductive! 21******It’s like a wild vine.***

**1.** Here a plant turns on its master.

 **2.** God took a choice vine. He was expecting to get rich, red grapes from the vine. The

 vine turned on Him. (John 15) *I am the vine. You are the branches.* What’s it like

 when God’s people…

 ***F. It’s Unattractive! 22******It’s like an indelible stain.***

**1.** Sin is not simply a cosmetic problem. Even after the detergent, the degreasers, the

 turpentine... the stain remains.

1. What soap can wash away sin from the soul? Only the blood of Jesus can purify us from

 all sin? (I John 1:7) What’s it like when God’s people leave their Husband?

 ***G. It’s Unhindered! 23,34******It’s like a young camel running loose in the desert.***

**1.** Jeremiah’s point is that God’s people run all over the place to sin.

 **2.** They are unable to decide which god to serve. *The Valley*...*Ben Hinnom*…children are

 sacrificed to Molech and they abused the poor.

1. When God is forbidden, everything is permissible…children suffer!

 ***H. It’s Uncontrollable! 24,25*** ***It’s like a donkey in heat.***

**1.** Sin is like the uncontrollable sex urge of an animal.

 **2.** 24b is looking for some action. God’s people found their own ways to the temple of

 pagan gods.

 **3.** 25 Even God’s warnings are not enough to stop them!

 ***I. It’s Unthinkable! 32*** ***It’s like a bride forgetting her wedding dress.***

**1.** It would be unthinkable for a bride to forget her wedding dress.

 **2.** Yet, God’s bride has forgotten her Husband. **No wife has ever been that forgetful!**

Have you walked out on God?

**IV. THEY LAGGED 2:23,25,27c, 35 *Denial***

Is there enough evidence for a conviction? Jerusalem has no defense. God’s bride mounts a

 defense. God’s people are in denial!!

 ***A. “I am not defiled...”*** *I have not run after Baal.* ***23***

 ***B. “I am innocent...” 35***

 ***C. “Arise and save us...” 27c***

 ***D. “Why do you bring charges against me?”***

 ***v. 35*** Because you say: ***“I have not sinned...” Is there any hope?***

 ***1. Return (3:14)***

 ***2.*** ***Repent (31:3,4 cf. 31:21)***

***His cleansing is so complete that He restores her passion and purity.***

***What can wash away my sin...nothing but the blood of Jesus!!***