**Jeremiah 6:16-30**

***“LIFE AT THE CROSSROADS”***

Introduction:

1. *“We don’t know where we are going” “BUT WE ARE ON OUR WAY” FDR*

2. The people in Jeremiah’s day had lost all sense of direction. They were disoriented.

 They stood at a crossroads. America is at a crossroads. You may be at a crossroad.

3. In Jeremiah 6:16-30 there are at least three ways to follow:

Are you at a crossroads? There are three possibilities of travel:

**I. THE WAY OF CONSECRATION...*THE RIGHT ROAD* 6:16**

*This verse is for anyone at a crossroads and does not know which way to turn.*

1. ***Stand*** Recognize the crossroads for what it is. Get your bearings.
2. Don’t rush ahead. Spend time in the Word and prayer. Get alone with God.
3. America is at a crossroads. Years ago we started down the wrong path. It is the road of destruction. Prayer, God and the Word were taken out of public school and the American way of life. Abortions since Roe v Wade: some say 60 million and others 50 million babies have be aborted. Homosexual marriage…Transgender…

Violence in the streets…Break Up of the home, etc.

1. The church is at a crossroads. Will we glorify God in our worship or will we

entertain ourselves? Will we bear witness to the Word of God, the grace of God and the Gospel or will we tone down our message so as not to offend anyone? Will we expound the eternal Word of God or will we see some new revelation? Will we stand on the absolute truth of God’s Word or public opinion?

1. Perhaps you are at a crossroad? What does God want you to do with your life?

Perhaps it is a new career or a new educational opportunity or marriage or ministry.

Stand…if you keep going the same direction you will continue to get the same results. Your destiny depends on which road you take.

1. ***See*** Get the facts.
2. Gather as much information on each path.
3. See where they lead. Will it give you more freedom or less? Is the decision more eternal or more earthy? Is it more kingdom oriented or self-oriented. Will the decision draw you closer to Jesus or push you further from Him? Does this accomplish my purpose and reason for living?

 ***C. Seek*** *Ask for the ancient path where the good way is.*

\*At crossroads or forks in the road it is good to have a map…directions or signs.

 \*Jeremiah knew what kind of directions:

  **1. Ask for the old path…the well established route.**

 **\***Latin: *The worn way is the safe way.* In the wilderness it is best to stay on a

 well-worn path. Jeremiah did not suggest living in the past or nostalgia and

 never changing anything.

 \*America is leaving the *ancient path…*Rule of law…constitution…capitalism…

 those things that have caused Americans to prosper. They have left God out!

 \*Walk here and now according to the Word of God. The *ancient path* is a Biblical

 path!

1. **Ask where is the good path…6:19** *they have hearkened to my Word*

 This is not my preferences or law or legalism (Ps. 119: 1,32,35,104,105,133,176)

 The *ancient path* is the path of biblical faith. Millions of Americans have walked this

 path, and it has stood the test of time. It works! Novelty is the enemy of sound faith.

1. ***Stroll*** *Walk in it!*
2. Let the Word of God be your guide for faith and practice.
3. If the Word is against it…you, me, politicians, America is wrong! Those who seek the good way seek Jesus Christ. (John 14:6) **Jesus is the way!** We must have a personal relationship with Him.
4. ***Serenity*** *And you shall find rest for your soul.*
5. America is a restless nation. Maybe you don’t have rest and you are restless because

 you aren’t seeking the kingdom of God first. You are restless: You have the wrong

 priorities or the wrong purpose. A restless spirit is an earth bound spirit. It is secular and humanistic.

Are you at a crossroads? There are three possibilities of travel:

**II. THE WAY OF COMPLACENCY...*THE WRONG ROAD***  **6:17-26**

 ***A. The Word Of God 17-19***

**1.** That will worn path has been left. **They are running through the weeds!**

 **2.** *We will not hearken (hear)!* They, America and often we don’t hear. We won’t

 hear! They have rejected!

 ***B. The Worship Of God 20-21***

**1.** They have turned to empty religion. *Your burnt offerings are not acceptable.*

**2.** They stumble and fall. They disobeyed God’s Word. They lived as they pleased.

 **They are coming down!** What a picture of America and many in America.

 ***C. The Way Of God 22-25***

**1.** The Babylonians from the north will invade the land!

 **2.** There are consequences when you choose the wrong path. You will lose your

 freedom. It is the way of death. It is the way of destruction. America will fall!

***D. The Wish Of God 26***

**1. Repent!** Turn around…stop going in the direction you are heading.

 **2.** *Put on sackcloth…wallow in ashes…better lamentation…****the spoiler shall come!***

Are you at a crossroads? There are three possibilities of travel:

**III. THE WAY OF COMPROMISE...*THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD* 6:27-30**

 ***A. The Tester 27***

**1.** Jeremiah is the tester. *Test their ways.*

**2.** Jeremiah has become an assayer. This is the tester of metals. It is an accurate

 description of smelting in the ancient Near East.

 ***B. The Task 28***

**1.** Find out what is there.

 **2.** God’s people come across like real silver in the rock, but it was mixed with various

 impurities and alloys.

1. *They are bronze and iron…they are hardened rebels.* Bronze and iron were

 clinging to the silver.

1. ***The Test 29***
2. He took the ore and placed it in a crucible. He added lead to the compound to serve as a flux and then heated up the fire.
3. First the bellows stoked the fire. Then a blast of air was placed into the compound. The blast was supposed to oxidize the lead so all the impurities and alloys would bond with it.
4. The rock, the bronze and the iron would be stripped away with the lead, leaving nothing behind but pure silver.
5. What happened? The bronze of wickedness and the iron of godliness was not refined!
6. ***The Tragedy 30***
7. The silver and iron had a spiritual point: *They are called rejected silver…*

 *Reprobate Silver, because the Lord had rejected them.*

1. There is no silver, only dross. America has no substance. Many Christians feel they can have Christ and the world at the same time. They have bronze of the devil…iron of the world with pure silver of Christ.
2. Fire will come. They think they can walk down the old path and new highway at the same time. They end up mixing a little greed, pride, immorality, idleness, worry, bitterness and selfishness with faith, hope and love. Fire will come. The fire of reversal, pain, age, failure, heartache. **They have nothing worth extracting.**

***One day everything will be tossed into the crucible...***

***Only what’s of eternal value will last!!***