

Jeremiah 10 – 16 Mar 2014

1. Read vs 1-2 – Intro

a. “Learn not the way of the heathen”

- i. Do you feel compelled to know the latest tv show (ie American Idol)?
- ii. Regarding bad habits (ie drugs, drinking), do you feel that you have try it or it’s not really bad?
- iii. Regarding a marriage partner, do you feel you have to “test drive the car, to know if you want to buy it”?
- iv. Read Rom 16:19

b. If we are honest, all of these things come to our mind b/c our selfish flesh wants them.

When self promotion is our method, we are being directed to take steps toward the “way of the heathen” which is idolatry. Here are the 3 mile-markers that we pass from selfishness ending at idolatry. Are you going down the “way of the heathen”?

2. The 1st mile-marker that we pass from selfishness ending at idolatry is worshiping the creature rather than the Creator.

a. Read again vs 2

b. Other examples of creature worship is

- i. Those worshiping science as more valuable/accurate than the God who reveals the facts of His creation.

- ii. Those worshiping Environmentalism rather than the One who made the environment.
- iii. And the ultimate example, those worshiping themselves as the focal point of all honor instead of worshiping our most honorable Creator Who lent us His image in the creative act.
- c. What pursuits are you valuing more highly than the pursuit of God? Are you being honest about it?
- d. So the 1st mile-marker is worshiping the creature rather than the Creature.

3. The 2nd mile-marker that we pass from selfishness ending at idolatry is that we begin to maintain our false gods.

- a. Read vs 3-5
- b. We have to constantly maintain our false gods.
 - i. They can't speak or walk around, so it's up to us.
 - ii. The pursuit of money – The more you get, the more you worry about it (ie security guards)
 - iii. The pursuit of popularity – What makes you popular will keep on changing.
 - iv. The pursuit of peace and quiet – You can't be a Christian without Christ calling you to contention at some point.
 - 1. "The world hated Me, it will hate you."
 - 2. Think not that I've come to bring peace but a sword.

3. If you're a Christian and have never had your faith contested by another person then you're compromising God's truth in your life.
- c. We have to maintain the image/perception that we're doing great in our pursuit of these false gods.
 - i. Just like the false god statues of Jeremiah's day, image is everything.
 - ii. We want to give the impression that things are great.
 - iii. We're "keeping up with the Jones's".
- d. So the 2nd mile-marker is maintaining our false gods giving the impression that these earthly pursuits are worthy goals.
 - i. Do you find yourself constantly working at maintaining a certain standard of living? Maybe you should let it go.

4. Read vs 6-7

- a. Like any son to a great father, Jeremiah interrupts himself to say, "They got nothing on you God, You're awesome!"
 - i. A true worshipper focuses on God, not on the evil around them.
 - ii. Phil 4:8 – Whatsoever things are pure...
- b. Notice the contrast to these "local" gods (ie valley, hills)
 - i. "King of Nations"
 - ii. Read Jonah 1:8-10

5. **The 3rd mile-marker that we pass from selfishness ending at idolatry is that we pour our lives & love into our false gods.**

- a. Read vs 8-9

- b. Look at the great care and money they poured into their false gods.
- c. We love to “work” at improving our false gods b/c ...it makes US look good.
 - i. “Look what I’ve done”.
 - 1. “Look how well I’m providing for my family.”
 - 2. “Look how well behaved my children are.”
 - ii. Read Luke 9:59-61 – “me first”
 - iii. Did you know another person can be your false god?

d. Story:

- i. **There was a man who asked one of his many lovers, “Have you ever loved someone for their own sake?”**
 - ii. Ask yourself this question: Do you love the things you love for your own sake? Or do you love them for the sake of others and to the glory of God.
- e. See our relationship with God isn’t about working to make anybody look good.
- i. We ARE wicked, nothing can change that.
 - ii. God IS good, nothing can change that.
 - iii. Our relationship with God is about loving Him FOR HIS SAKE.

6. Read vs 10

- a. He’s REAL, He’s ACTIVE, and it will ALWAYS be that way.
- b. Unlike false gods, Yahweh stands on His own.

7. Let’s do a 180 and get off this highway to hell.

- a. Read vs 11-16

- i. **You want to break you bonds of pouring your life and love into false gods?**
 - 1. Vs 11 – Realize God is eternal and all these things we pursuit and temporary.
- ii. **You want to stop maintaining these false gods?**
 - 1. Read vs 12 – It’s His work that maintains everything...including YOU.
 - 2. Rest in His finished work.
 - a. We can’t work to make Him look any better or worse.
 - b. We can’t work to make ourselves any better or worse.
 - c. People will always have opinions about us, but it’s only God’s that matters.

8. Read vs 17-22

- a. God never shies away from saying that judgment is coming when speaking to the unrepentant.
 - i. He’s saying, prepare to be scattered.
 - ii. This is needed to convict of sin.
 - iii. I Tim 1:9 – “Know this that the law is not made for a righteous man but for the lawless...”
- b. Vs 20-21
 - i. Your family is broken down.
 - ii. Your “church family” is broken down.

9. **We started down the “way of the heathen” by 1st worshipping the creature rather than the Creator.**

- a. We started back in vs 2 with astrology.

- i. We don't need to look to the stars for our answers when we can look to the very One who made those stars.
- b. We you get back to the beginning of this path now read vs 23-25
 - i. Read vs 23-25
 - 1. Admit that we need him in every activity of our lives.
 - 2. Appeal to His great mercy.