

## Jeremiah 11-12 – 23 Mar 2014

1. Introduction - Billy Graham story - I was invited to have coffee one morning with Konrad Adenauer before he retired as the Chancellor of Germany. When I walked in, I expected to meet a tall, stiff, formal man who might even be embarrassed if I brought up the subject of religion. After the greeting, the Chancellor suddenly turned to me and said, “Mr. Graham, what is the most important thing in the world?” Before I could answer, he had answered his own question. He said, “The resurrection of Jesus Christ. If Jesus Christ is alive, then there is hope for the world. If Jesus Christ is in the grave, then I don’t see the slightest glimmer of hope on the horizon.” Then he amazed me by saying that he believed that the resurrection of Christ was one of the best-attested facts of history. He said, “When I leave office, I intend to spend the rest of my life gathering scientific proof of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

2. How do you respond to hard times?

a. If we allow God’s working in our mind and spirit then  
**hard times will have 3 main effects on us.**

3. Read vs 1-5 – Keep the covenant and be blessed but you broke it and brought about a curse.

4. Read vs 6-8 – You can obey a good God or your own evil heart. We choose our own evil heart b/c we don’t see it this way. We think our way is the good way.

5. Read vs 9-13

- a. **The 1<sup>st</sup> effect that hard times have on us is that it allows us to see the true value of God.**
  - b. When hard times come; the pointlessness and powerlessness of our false gods come to light. Also the purpose and power of our true God comes to light.
6. Read vs 14-17 – Their hypocritical lifestyle of mingling false and true worship was as if committing evil against themselves. THIS kindled God’s anger.
- a. Them that is, them that ain’t, and them that think they is but ain’t.
  - b. Those that God rebukes are “them that thinks they is but ain’t.
7. Read vs 18-23
- a. **The 2<sup>nd</sup> effect that hard times have on us is that it shows us the true character of those around us.**
  - b. We need to still preach the truth in the face of opposition from false Christians or other religious people.
  - c. Don’t judge the condition of their soul, but rebuke false teaching and let God protect you from their threats.
  - d. It’s God who judges righteously, we can’t do that.
8. Read vs 1-4 – Notice that the “wicked” are those who talk of God but their hearts are far from Him.
- a. Jeremiah’s humility: “I know You’re right about this, but why do you allow the wicked to prosper?”  
(Hab 1:13, 2:2-4)
  - b. Jeremiah’s honesty: “You know what I would do Lord, I would destroy them.”

9. Read vs 5-9

- a. **The 3<sup>rd</sup> effect that hard times have on us is that it prepares us for even harder times!**
- b. Somewhat surprisingly, God says, “If you can’t put up with the threats of those from Anathoth, how will you deal with bigger problems?”
  - i. Rush Limbaugh’s answer: Just don’t listen or look at them.
  - ii. God’s answer in vs 6 – don’t believe them.
- c. There are some in this room that God wants to use you:
  - i. To go door to door....but you haven’t learned to deal with rejection yet.
  - ii. To go love some unlovable people in your life....but you haven’t even learned to love those who love you yet.
  - iii. To go teach a friend a part of the Bible...but you haven’t even read it yet.

10. Read vs 10-13 – You want to know what leads to judgment?

Pastor after pastor is teaching falsely leading the people astray and “no man laid God’s Word to heart”!

11. Read vs 14-17 – The grace of God even extended to Israel’s enemies. What grace, just to know that there’s a way out of judgment!

End with John 16:33