

## **Jeremiah 15:10-17:27 – 13 Apr 2014**

### **Read 15:10-11**

- Not b/c of his doing, but b/c of who he is, Jeremiah is always at odds with his nation.
- The Lord says don't rue your beginning b/c you're going to have a good end.

**God controls our beginning and end. How many of us are trying to control our end?**

**He wants us to focus on the day to day spiritual journey.**

The Greeks had a race in their Olympic games that was unique called the Torch-race. The winner was not the runner who finished first. It was the runner who finished with his torch still lit. The modern torch relay to open the Games got its start with the Torch-race. I want to run all the way with the flame of my torch still lit for Christ.

**There are 7 main actions we can take to run well in our day to day spiritual journey. We'll look at these today.**

Read 15:12-14

- Although Jeremiah will be treated well, Judah will not escape the judgment of God.

**Read 15:15-18**

**The 1<sup>st</sup> action we can take to run well in our day to day spiritual journey is to be relentless thru the daily grind when we don't see prosperity by remembering God's mercy toward us.**

- I'm doing all these things but not seeing the good results.
  - I know You and You know me
  - I have suffered scorn for You. (vs 15)
  - I love Your Word. (vs 16)
  - I'm known as a Christian. (vs 16)
  - I didn't laugh at perverted jokes or even make company with those that do. (vs 17)
  - I've lost friends b/c of preaching your truth. (vs 17)
  - Will you let me down now God? No! (vs 18)
- Gal 6:9
- II Cor 4:1-2 - Why persist? B/c God has been so merciful to us in granting us eternal life with Him.

## Read 15:19-21

The 2<sup>nd</sup> action we can take to run well in our day to day spiritual journey is to separate from sin when it comes up today.

- Jeremiah told to return to his post yet be separate from their sin, and then God will speak thru him & protect him again.

## Read 16:1-4 – Restrictions – no marry

- Jeremiah is told not to marry or have kids as a sign that no one should marry right now in Israel, for judgment is coming.
- Later God tells Jeremiah the exact opposite for those living in Babylon (Jer 29:6)

## Read 16:5-7 – Restrictions – no bury

- Do comfort them in any way.
- Don't be comfortable around sin.

## Read 16:8-9 – Restrictions – nothing extraordinary

- All attention needs focused on repenting from their problems.
- There's no time to waste on partying

## **Read 16:10-13**

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> action we can take to run well in our day to day spiritual journey is to appreciate all God's blessings in your life that could vanish in a puff.**

- He's saying, I've given you a peaceful land and good economy yet you go do your own thing.
- Their sin? Relativism – Whatever you think is good for you...you do.
- Go try to serve yourself in Babylon and see if it works out.
- Don't wait till your blessings are gone to see God's grace.

## **Read 16:14-21**

**The 4<sup>th</sup> action we can take to run well in our day to day spiritual journey is to exalt God's might and greatness in each detail of your day.**

- This “coming back out of the Babylonian Captivity” will be so remarkable that it will make the coming out of Egypt seem like something simple.
- Still today Jews have retained their Jewish identity and are STILL returning today. (Read news articles)

- The Gentiles (vs 19) should look at the regathering of Israel as a display of God's might (vs 21).

### Read 17:1-6

- This is like a teenage thinking that he has it all figured out and now tries to live independent
  - He doesn't realize that he was succeeding b/c of his parent's guidance.
  - He doesn't realize that he grew up with luxuries only b/c his parent's provided them...now he expects he can earn all things himself.

### Read 17:7-10

**The 5<sup>th</sup> action we can take to run well in our day to day spiritual journey is to trust unconditionally what God says as true and right.**

- This method for any spiritual advancement is the only source of fuel that will bring fruit.
- Our hearts will lie to us.
  - Whether or not something makes sense (mental), bring it before Christ to get His counsel.
  - Whether or not something feels right (emotional), bring it before Christ to get His counsel.

- Whether or not something is accepted by your friends (social), bring it before Christ to get His counsel.
  - If 50 million people say a foolish thing..it's STILL a foolish thing.
- We will see God tempting them to try Him on this principle later in this chapter. (17:19-27)

Read 17:11-13

- Good results or bad, the journey itself is of all importance to the Lord on this spiritual journey.
- It's our relationship of honoring God daily that He delights in.

Read 17:14-18

**The 6<sup>th</sup> action we can take to run well in our day to day spiritual journey is to keep a big perspective on life and purpose.**

- Vs 16 – I'm not excited that bad things are coming, but that doesn't change that I HAVE TO preach the truth.
- Why do you have to? To be on the right side of history, side with the truth.
  - May take a long time, but truth wins.

- Every knee will bow, so do it today while we have a choice. Jeremiah has the long view of things.
- This is the way to honor God, choosing to do it.
- Jim Elliott – “He is no fool who gives us that which he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose.”

Read 17:19-27

- The steps to spiritual prosperity may seem like steps toward poverty.
  - Stop trying to gain extra on the Sabbath (gain gotten wrongfully)
  - Stop! And spend extra time just dedicated to the Lord.
- Stick with it by faith and then you’ll see results, done the right way.
  - Vs 25 – You’ll get the gain that you were trying to “WORK” so hard, in your own strength to get.

**The 7<sup>th</sup> action we can take to run well in our day to day spiritual journey is to show our repentance tangibly.**

- God is challenging them in a very tangible way to repent and show their repentance.
  - Remember our hearts are wicked, we lie to ourselves.

- We say we've repented but show no fruit of it.
  - For some of us our gods are the god of self. We get anger when self isn't promoted.
    - We say we've repented of our anger, but never apologize when we sin in this area.
  - For some of us our gods are the god of stuff.
    - We say we've repented of our material possession idolatry but still don't give the Lord at least 10% of the money that He gives us.
  - For some of us our gods are the god of gaining all opportunities in life by self-effort.
    - We say we've repented of our worry or self-effort at gaining all worldly opportunities, but never show that we're ok with whatever the Lord wants for our material or economy state.
- What is God challenging you to do...tangible...to show repentance?

Relentless

Separate

Appreciate

Exalt

Trust

Keep big perspective

Show repentance

SKATERS