

## Jeremiah 2:1 – 3:5 – 17 Nov 2013

Chapter one was God's call on Jeremiah's life in which He told Jeremiah that Judah had forsaken and fled from Him.

**This section of scripture presents the 6 traits God's people display showing that they've fled from Him.**

### 1. Vs 1-3 – **The 1<sup>st</sup> trait showing they've fled from God is EMPTY EMOTION.**

#### a. Problem (vs 2):

- i. Used to have the passion of WANTING to love God.
- ii. Just like the first year of 'being in love', used to have gentle, kind words and deeds.
- iii. Used to be willing to follow God anywhere, even into the wilderness.

#### b. Blessing (vs 3): As the firstfruits is set apart and devoted to God, that same protection abided on Israel.

#### c. Solution:

- i. Rev 2 – Church of Ephesus – were told that they had left their first love...but what were they told to do about it. Look at the beginning of verse 5.
  1. Remember and meditate on the pit of disgusting sin that we were in before Christ's redemption.
- ii. Get back to cultivating kind words & deeds toward God/man.
  1. Read I John 3:16-18

iii. Remember verse 2? Be willing to follow God anywhere like in the beginning.

1. Were there places you were willing to go in the beginning of your salvation that seem like BOLD steps now?

a. Quit smoking?

b. Moved out of a bad relationship?

c. Quit drugs? (non-prescription or prescription)

d. You witnessed to friends?

2. Vs 4-5 – **The 2<sup>nd</sup> trait showing they've fled from God is EMPTY ENDEAVORS.**

a. Problem: They were constantly in idol pursuit of things that offer no satisfaction.

i. Vanity = idol = empty = a thing of nothing

ii. Read Luke 12:15-21 – bigger barns: “So is he that layeth up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

iii. Men –sports teams lose in the end and you feel empty.

b. Solution: Look back at vs 5: They wrongly thought that God wasn't perfect and awesome and worth the pursuit!!

i. John 17:3 – This is eternal life to know God and Jesus Christ!

ii. Study God's perfection, study each of God's attributes! Now there's a worthy pursuit that will leave you satisfied!!

3. Vs 6-7 – **The 3<sup>rd</sup> trait showing they've fled from God is that they've FORGOTTEN GOD'S PAST FAITHFULNESS THAT MADE THEM FRUITFUL.**

a. Problem: They were taking for granted the blessings of the fruitful land as if God wasn't the One who made it all possible!

i. Also read in Jer 2:32

b. Solution: We need to acknowledge and ascribe all blessings in our lives to God's activity.

- i. Acts 17:28 – For in Him we live and move and have our being.
- ii. Notice again Jer 2:32 – If they remember with fondness the wedding ornaments, how about remembering with fondness the One who gave the wedding ornaments to the bride!!

4. Vs 8-13 – **The 4<sup>th</sup> trait showing they’ve fled from God is that they have a LACK OF LEARNING THE LAW OF THE LORD.**

- a. Problem (vs 8): They didn’t know much of the Lord in order to make good sound decisions about spiritual matters.
  - i. None in their right mind would do vs 13 if they saw it that way.
    - 1. In fact none in the world had (vs 10)
  - ii. If they had a depth of knowledge of the Lord, they would have seen Him as this great fountain of living water!
- b. Solution: There is no substitute to reading and talking about what you’re reading!!
  - i. The Great Commission is to “Go make disciples” or learners.
  - ii. “Take my yoke upon you and LEARN of me”
  - iii. Chaplain Bach helped me keep my head on straight about honoring God’s name.
    - 1. Stay refreshed in the knowledge of God’s Word.

5. Vs 14-19 – **The 5<sup>th</sup> trait showing they’ve fled from God is that they were RELYING ON REPLACEMENTS FOR GOD’S RESOURCES.**

- a. Problem: They relied on the waffling resources of alliances with other nations rather than trusting in the winning resources of the Lord.
  - i. Vs 19 – Their own inability to perform their part of the alliances would prove to be very bitter.

- ii. This is like trusting in your credit card instead of asking God what to do about your sad, broken car.
- iii. This is like trusting in prescription or non-prescription drugs instead of asking God what to do about your sad, broken heart.

b. Solution:

- i. Vs 36-37 – Recognize that we have to change and compromise to form heathen alliances...that will backfire. So if we have to change a bit anyway, why not keep our alliance only with God.
- ii. Vs 19 – Have a greater reverence for the Lord.
  - 1. Recognize that he has the power to change our circumstances on a dime, but if not, it's for the best.

6. Vs 20-24 – **The 6<sup>th</sup> trait showing they've fled from God is that they DENIED THEIR OWN DEBT.**

a. Problems

- i. (vs 20): They anticipated that they wouldn't struggle with sin.
- ii. (vs 23): They denied that they sinned after they did sin.

b. Solutions

- i. Anticipate that we will sin: Don't let opportunity and desire come together.
- ii. Confess your sin, ohhh the freedom!
  - 1. Painful in the short-term, freeing in the long-run.
  - 2. Once it's confessed, the chances of going back are slim.

7. Vs 25-30

- a. Israel will be ashamed in the day they have to call on their false gods to save them.

b. All their replacements they relied on, all their empty endeavors will be useless in the day of trouble.

8. Vs 31-37

a. Lovingly pursuit Me.

b. Remember My faithfulness and rely on Me.

c. Admit your debt and sinfulness and learn of Me and My greatness.

9. Chapter 3:1-5

a. You've given all your special blessing and riches away and you sit empty, turn to Me.

10. We can spot these 6 traits in our own lives.

a. None of that matters unless we decide to put some changes into place in our lives.

b. Which are you struggling with in your spirit?

c. Let me challenge you today, sit with another Christian this week and tell them how they can pray with you.