Mark 16:15 *Jesus said, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."*

1 Peter 3:15 *"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."*

C. Have you <u>turned</u> to Jesus and His <u>Word</u>?

Acts 3:19 *"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.*

2 Chronicles 7:14 *"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."*

Where Are We Headed?
Jeremiah 23:15-22
6/14/26

Jeremiah 23:1-2 *"Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!" declares the LORD. Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: "Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done," declares the LORD.*

Isaiah 5:20 *"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter."*

Jeremiah 23:10-11 *"The land is full of adulterers...Both prophet and priest are godless; even in my temple I find their wickedness," declares the LORD.*

Jeremiah 23:15-22 *Therefore, this is what the LORD Almighty says concerning the prophets: "I will make them eat bitter food and drink poisoned water, because from the prophets of Jerusalem ungodliness has spread throughout the land." This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. They keep saying to those who despise me, 'The LORD says: You will have peace.' And to all who follow the stubbornness of their hearts they say, 'No harm will come to you.' But which of them has stood in the council of the LORD to see or to hear his word? Who has listened and heard his word? See, the storm of the LORD will burst out in wrath, a whirlwind swirling down on the heads of the wicked. The anger of the LORD will not turn back until he fully accomplishes the purposes of his heart. In days to come you will understand it clearly. I did not send these prophets, yet they have run with their message; I did not speak to them, yet they have prophesied. But if they had stood in my council, they would have proclaimed my words to my people and would have turned them from their evil ways and from their evil deeds."*

I. The <u>Problem</u>...False <u>Prophets.</u>

Jeremiah 23:15 *Therefore, this is what the LORD Almighty says concerning the prophets: "I will make them eat bitter food and drink poisoned water, because from the prophets of Jerusalem ungodliness has spread throughout the land."*

A. They fill you with <u>false</u> <u>hopes</u>.

Jeremiah 23:16a *This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes.*

John 3:36 *"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."*

B. They speak visions from their <u>own</u> <u>minds</u>.

Jeremiah 23:16b ***"****They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD."*

Jeremiah 23:21 *"I did not send these prophets, yet they have run with their message; I did not speak to them."*

Acts 17:11 *"Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."*

C. They say, <u>God</u> says you will have <u>peace</u>.

Jeremiah 23:17a *"They keep saying to those who despise me, 'The LORD says: You will have peace.'*

Matthew 10:34 *"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword."*

1 Thessalonians 5:3 *"While people are saying, 'Peace and safety,' destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape."*

D. They say, <u>no</u> <u>harm</u> will come to you.

Jeremiah 23:17b *"And to all who follow the stubbornness of their hearts they say, 'No harm will come to you.'"*

Hebrews 11:36-38 *"Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheep-skins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated – the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground."*

II. The <u>Solution</u>.

Jeremiah 23:22 *"But if they had stood in my council, they would have proclaimed my words to my people and would have turned them from their evil ways and from their evil deeds.*

A. We <u>stand</u> in His <u>council</u>.

Psalm 1:1-3 *"Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers."*

B. We <u>proclaim</u> God's <u>words</u> to the people.

2 Timothy 4:3 *"For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear."*

Jeremiah 20:9 *'But if I say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.'*

Acts 5:28-29 *"We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood." Peter and the other apostles replied: 'We must obey God rather than men!'"*

C. They <u>turn</u> from their <u>evil</u> ways and deeds.

Jeremiah 23:5-6 *"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness."*

<u>How can we apply this lesson today?</u>

A. What are you <u>standing</u> on?

Isaiah 40:8 *"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever."*

Matthew 24:35 *Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."*

B. What are you <u>proclaiming</u>?