



Jeremiah 5

Jeremiah CHAPTER 5

Let's turn to Jeremiah 5. Jesus was talking about his day and the religious leaders of that time. He spoke of their blindness. He said if the blind lead the blind that they will both fall in a ditch. Probably the saddest time in a nation's history is when that nation is enshrouded in blindness and those people who are to be and known to be the spiritual leaders of the nation are also blind. That was the condition of Judah at the time that Jeremiah was writing here in chapter 5.

There was a surface kind of honoring of God. The problem was that it was only surface. As we studied a couple of weeks ago God said that they had returned but not with all of their heart. It was kind of a surface movement. In their hearts there was still that darkness.

Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it (5:1).

There are times when the world's condition becomes so depraved that there is almost no one left. We remember at the time of the flood, God looked upon the earth and saw the exceeding wickedness in man. There was one man at that time in all the earth that God saw who was living righteously. God commanded Noah to build that ark that he might escape the judgment of God that was going to come. God looked upon the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and saw the exceeding sinfulness of the city. Within the city there was one righteous man who God led out of the city before the judgment came. During the time of Ezekiel which was about the same time as Jeremiah, just shortly after. Ezekiel is rehearsing the reason why Israel fell, went into captivity was that God sought for a man among them who would stand in the gap, who would fill up the hedge, but there was none. Thus the judgment of God fell upon the nation. So often God is just looking for one man who will be in alignment with Him that through that man He might work to reach others within a nation, within a community.

So the Lord said to Jeremiah to go and search through the city, see if you can find just one, anyone who is really seeking to do the right thing, who is truly honest in his judgment. God said He would pardon it.

And though they say, The LORD liveth; surely they swear falsely (5:2).

These people had spiritual jargon. They were using spiritual phraseology. "The LORD liveth" is much like us saying Oh praise the Lord. A lot of times people use spiritual jargon as just a cover. This was the case then. They swore, Oh the LORD liveth, but they were swearing falsely. They were not really living by the LORD.

O LORD, are not thine eyes upon the truth? [God is always seeking the truth.] thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return (5:3).

God had begun His judgment. God had begun His chastisement but they were not responding to God. The Bible says that whom the LORD loveth He chasteneth and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. Chastening I have noticed has one of two effects upon people. It either has the desired effect of correction and people when chastened often repent and are corrected. But then there are those who in chastening are bitter, bitter against God. They turn their hearts against God and their hearts become hardened to God as the result of the chastening process. That is why the Scripture says, My son do not despise the chastening of the LORD.

God had begun His chastening process with His people but it had that sad effect of hardening their hearts against God. As the prophet said that they have refused to receive the correction and they have made their faces harder than a rock, they have refused to return to God.

Therefore I said, Surely these are poor; they are foolish: for they know not the way of the LORD, nor the judgment of their God (5:4).

They don't really understand God. How poor it is and how foolish it is to think that you can get by with evil, to think that you can just sort of spurn the things of God and get by with it. You don't know God. There are a lot of people who are deceiving themselves today because one of God's characteristics is that of patience, extremely patient. I admire that characteristic because I am extremely impatient.

They now have a ten second glue but that is not really fast enough for me. I paint things and I always mar it because I am always touching it to see if it is dry before it is fully dry. So I leave fingerprints in my paint. It seems that I just rush through life. I am impatient with people's weaknesses. I get so impatient. But God, on the other hand, is so patient with us. He is so longsuffering. He takes so much before He responds. If I were God the world would be in bad shape. I would have taken care of things a long time ago. But God is so patient.

Because of that, people don't understand God, they think that His patience is weakness. Or worse yet that His patience is tolerance. Or even worst of all, that His patience is approval. So that it doesn't really matter to God if I am doing these things because, look, He has let me get by with it. He hasn't smitten me. I am still going and functioning. Thus God really doesn't care if you do these things and today we even hear that God is approving these evil things. But they don't understand God or know the truth of God or the ways of God or the judgment of God. They are foolish thinking that they are getting by with their evil, thinking that God doesn't know or care. As the psalmist in psalm 73 said, "They sort of mock God and say, 'Is there knowledge in the Most High, doth God know?'" Yes God does know, and no you are not getting by with your evil. One day you will answer to God for your evil.

I will get me unto the great men, and will speak unto them; for they have known the way of the LORD, and the judgment of their God: but these have altogether broken the yoke, and burst the bonds (5:5).

These leaders, these great men they've really known the way of the LORD, they have known the judgment of their God. But these men were altogether broken, they had broken the yoke, they had burst forth from that submission to God. They were not submitting their life to God. They knew God, yes, they knew the judgment of God, yes, but they had rebelled and they had broken from that yoke of God, they had burst their bonds.

Wherefore (5:6),

Now we had a therefore now we have a wherefore.

Wherefore a lion out of the forest shall slay them, and a wolf of the evenings shall spoil them, a leopard shall watch over their cities: every one that goeth out thence shall be torn in pieces: because their transgressions are many, and their backslidings are increased (5:6).

Now at that time in the land of Israel there were wild predatory animals. You remember when the northern kingdom of Israel fell to the Assyrians. The Assyrians had a practice of totally disrupting a society by moving all of the people from their familiar surroundings to foreign surroundings. They would move entire populations. Like, if the Assyrians had conquered Mexico and Canada or the United States, what the Assyrians would do is they would take all of you and move you down to Mexico and they would take all the Mexicans and move them up here. Their policy was to disorient people by moving people into a totally foreign environment and thus they lost all sense of unity and cohesiveness. They were easier to keep under control because they had become so disorientated in the new surroundings.

They had moved the Israelites of the Assyrian empire and they brought people from other parts of the Assyrian Empire into the area of Mt. Ephraim and the cities there of Israel. You remember the story that the wild animals there in Israel began to attack the people and devour the people. So they called to the leadership of the Assyrian Empire and they said, "Hey, we need help, the wild animals are overrunning here and they are a danger and a threat. We need some help. We don't understand the ways of the gods of this land and the gods have turned these animals against us and we are being destroyed."

So you remember how that they brought some of the Israelites back to teach them the worship of God and so they, it said, "Worship God, but they served their idols." This is the condition of a lot of people. They have an outward worship of God but they are still really serving their idols. The LORD speaks of because the fact that the leadership is corrupted and does not seek or know God therefore the lions, panthers, wolves are going to sort of prey upon the people. If you dare go out of the city you will be attacked by these animals because of many transgression and the backslidings have increased.

Now there are some Bible scholars who interpret the lion and the wolves and the panthers to be nations. They say that these are actually nations that will attack them. That is quite possible as far as an interpretation because you remember that when God gave to Daniel the vision of the kingdom that would govern over the world, he saw the lion in tremendous power. But it was destroyed by a bear which was destroyed by a leopard which was destroyed by this indescribably horrible looking beast. Those beasts; the lion represented the Babylonian Empire which would be right here because it was the Babylonian Empire. The wolf, they say, represented the Medo-Persian Empire and the leopard the Grecian Empire so that you have a correlation of the prophecy of Daniel as he listed these nations that would become world governing empires and that is a very possible interpretation also but it could be both. It could be that God is using the animals to represent the nations but also literally as was happening in the northern kingdom of Israel so would happen this overrunning of the land of the wild animals and the danger of going out of the cities, the danger of being torn by one of these wild beasts.

How shall I pardon thee for this? (5:7).

Isn't it interesting that God is always looking for a way to pardon? God is always looking for some excuse to forgive, some reason to show His mercy. With Ezekiel He was just looking for a man that would just stand in the gap so He wouldn't destroy them. Here is a man that is interceding, here is a man who is praying, and God says, "All right, good, I don't have to destroy them." "How can I pardon you?" the Lord said. He is always looking for the way to pardon. For God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance and that is why He is so longsuffering and patient with man. God said, "I have no delight in the death of the wicked, turn ye, turn ye, for why will you die?" God is pleading and begging for people to turn from their unrighteousness. God has no pleasure in seeing the unrighteous perish. Though they have turned their hearts against Him, have been bitter in their incriminations against Him yet God loves and is seeking the ways to pardon. "How shall I pardon thee for this?"

thy children have forsaken me, and sworn by them that are no gods (5:7):

The children are following after these false gods, the gods of pleasure, gods of sexual lasciviousness. They are swearing by these gods which are not gods.

when I had fed them to the full, they then committed adultery, and assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses (5:7).

It is a time of moral degeneracy. Here they are assembling like troops in the harlots' houses, in the houses of prostitution. Committing adultery, and yet these are the people who were swearing, "The LORD liveth!" And that was on the Sabbath day but on the rest of the week living after the flesh. So God is declaring His incitement against them.

They were as fed horses in the morning: every one neighed after his neighbor's wife (5:8).

They have become almost like animals in their sexual desires and activities, just a total kind of a breakdown of the family unit, of any type of morality. I heard a statistic concerning the United States that only 15% of the children in the United States today live in the home with their mothers and fathers where the mother is still at home and only the father works. The rest of the children live in either broken homes, parents that are not both of them their parents, or in homes where both mother and father work and only 15% of the children in America have the advantage of mom being home and their true father coming home at night.

That was pretty much the way it was in Israel. There was a complete breakdown from a moral standpoint, they were lusting after everyone else. God said, "Shall I not visit you for these things, how can I pardon you, you don't give me any space, you don't give me any cause?"

Shall I not visit for these things? saith the LORD: and shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this? (5:9)

"Shall I not bring my judgment upon a nation which has so totally turned its back on Me?" As I read these things, a nation that was called the people of God who had now so turned their back on God and had so backslidden that there was really no true relationship, only surface but not really a heart relationship with God, who had sort of just put God outside of their society and I understand the heart of God in His desire to avenge Himself on such a nation. So God commands the destruction that is to come. To Babylon He declares:

Go ye up upon her walls, and destroy; but make not a full end (5:10).

Again the mercy of God. They deserved to be fully destroyed, they deserved to be utterly wiped out, so God calls on the Babylonians to come up and destroy, but don't make a full end. God is still going to reach out to them, still seek to draw them back to Himself.

take away her battlements [defenses, towers and fortresses]; for they are not the LORD'S (5:10).

They were looking to their army for defense, they were looking to their walled city for a defense but they were not looking to the LORD for their defense.

For the house of Israel and the house of Judah have dealt very treacherously against me, saith the LORD (5:11).

They had forsaken God and the ways of God. They had turned against God, they had dealt treacherously.

They have belied the LORD, and said, It is not he (5:12);

They were denying God and the work of God in their midst, sure we have had five years of drought but that is not really the LORD, he is not punishing us, that is just the way things are happening. Earthquake, yea, that is the way things are happening.

neither shall evil come upon us; neither shall we see sword nor famine (5:12):

They were going on in a false confidence. The reason why, and you need to know this, is that there were false prophets there that were encouraging them, saying, "Thus saith the LORD, just go ahead enjoying life, God just want to see you have a great time, no evil will befall this place. The Babylonians will not throw a spear into the city, they will wither and wilt away, they will never come to this place." But they were prophesying lies to the people and the people were trusting in the lies of these false prophets.

And the prophets shall become wind, and the word is not in them. [that is the word of the LORD is not in them] thus shall it be done unto them (5:13).

God is laying the foundation, "This is why, this is why, this is why." So often when God's judgment comes people say, "Why would God?" There is always a reason why. So God is spelling it out "because this

is going on and this is going on and this is going on. Therefore, because this is happening and this is happening. Wherefore.” And so again the wherefore.

Wherefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, Because ye speak this word, behold, I will make my words in thy mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them (5:14).

Jeremiah’s word was going to become like fire. The people were going to be like wood and the word of the LORD through Jeremiah was going to devour them. Naturally, you start prophesying the truth you are going to get into trouble. People do not want to hear the truth, they love to hear the lies, they love the words of the false prophets, they love to be told that they are all right. “Don’t worry about it. It is okay.” They don’t want to hear, “You have to repent, you have to change or you are going to be destroyed, the judgment of God is going to come.” They don’t want to hear that. They turn against the true prophet of God. In fact when Stephen was making his defense in the book of Acts and he was standing before the Sanhedrin and he was pointing out that they were bragging about ‘our fathers.’ Like we sort of talk about our forefathers in the U.S., George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry, our fathers, they gave their life’s blood to give us this nation and we sort of pride ourselves in our fathers. They prided themselves in their fathers, “Our fathers, our fathers this.” It is interesting as we look back how we sort of put on rose color glasses so everything looks rosy back then.

But Stephen pointed out that their fathers were corrupt and blind. Their fathers did not recognize Moses, the greatest leader of the nation, who they all swore by. But their fathers had rejected Moses from being their leader at first. Moses figured, that surely they knew that God had put me in this place so that I could lead them but they did not. So they turned against Moses and he fled for forty years. Their fathers sold Joseph into slavery, the one that God had chosen to lead the family but his brothers sold them into slavery. All the way along their fathers were guilty until Stephen finally said, “Which of the prophets have not your fathers slain. You are worse then all of your fathers because you have slain the One that the prophets were all testifying that would come.” That made them really mad.

People don’t want to hear the truth. “Tell me I am okay. Tell me I am just fine.” They took up stones and they stoned Stephen because he dared to speak the truth to them that their fathers were blind to the word of God all the way along and they destroyed the prophets that God sent to them.

Remember the parable of Jesus? How that this man had a vineyard and left it with his servants and he went away. When the time came that he should receive the profits from the sale of the goods of the vineyards he sent his servant back to get his share. They beat that servant that came. They would not give them anything. So he sent other servants and they were beating them. Finally he said that he would send my son, surely they will receive my son and when they saw him coming they said, “Hey, this is the son, he is the heir, let’s kill him and then the vineyard will be ours.” The parable is very obvious. God had sent His prophets to the people but they mistreated the prophets. They beat the prophets. God finally sent His only begotten Son and Him they crucified.

So the LORD is speaking about these people.

Wherefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, Because ye speak this word, behold, I will make my words in thy mouth fire (5:14),

Now, Jeremiah, the word of God in his mouth was to be like fire. In the next chapter when they really got after Jeremiah and he had been speaking these things and he got the response of the people, it was so vehement and so bitter. Further down in the chapters he said, “I am not going to speak anymore in the name of the LORD because it just gets me in trouble.” The word of the LORD was like a fire burning within me and I was weary of withholding. In chapter 6, verse 11, speaking about the word of God, “Therefore I am full of the fury of the LORD and I am weary of holding in: I will pour it out upon the children abroad, and upon the assembly of young men together: for even the husband with the wife shall be taken, the aged with him that is full of days.” So that this word of God within him, burning like a fire but the people were like wood and were consumed.

and this people wood, and it shall devour them. Lo, I will bring a nation upon you from far (5:14–15),

God is warning them of Babylonian invasion.

O house of Israel, saith the LORD: it is a mighty nation, it is an ancient nation, a nation whose language thou knowest not, neither understandest what they say. Their quiver is as an open sepulchre, they are all mighty men. And they shall eat up thine harvest, and thy bread, which thy sons and thy daughters should eat: they shall eat up thy flocks and thine herds: they shall eat up thy vines and thy fig trees: they shall impoverish thy fenced cities, wherein thou trustedst, with the sword (5:15–17).

They are going to destroy your walled cities, they are going to eat up your harvest, the things you and your children should be enjoying, they are going to take.

And it shall come to pass, when ye shall say, Wherefore doeth the LORD our God all these things unto us? then shalt thou answer them, Like as ye have forsaken me, and served strange gods in your land, so shall ye serve strangers in a land that is not yours (5:19).

God gave them this land but they turned from God and they were serving strange gods in the land that God had given to them. Because of that, God said, you will be strangers in a land and you will serve the strangers. You will become the slaves of the Babylonians in a land that is not yours. So again, isn't it interesting when they have turned so completely against God, living so totally opposed to the things of God, such a complete immoral life and when the judgment of God comes they say, "Why did God do this to us?" Because you have not walked in the ways of the LORD, you have been walking after your own hearts and flesh, serving strange gods, the gods of the flesh.

Declare this in the house of Jacob, and publish it in Judah, saying, Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not: Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence (5:20–22),

So God says to speak to the people, tell them to hear this, the word of the LORD, people who have eyes but they do not see, ears but they don't hear. Their eyes are closed to God their ears are closed to the things of God. They have no fear of God in their heart. That is one of the greatest problems with people today, they no longer have the fear of God in their heart. If they really had the fear of God in their heart they could not do the things that they do. I have to say that concerning a lot of evangelists. They really do not have the fear of God in their hearts or they could not do the things that they do.

There are numbers of evangelists here in the U.S. maybe you are on one of their mailing list. If you are you will soon be on the list of others because they sell their lists to each other. They send out these letters that are filled with lies. They are charlatans. They send you all kinds of gimmicks. They are just seeking to rip people off, encouraging the little old ladies to go out and borrow money from the bank and send it to them to help them through this desperate crises. The desperate crises is that the payment is coming due on their five million dollar home in Corona Del Mar and if they don't make that payment they might lose that house so go out and borrow money so I can keep up the payments and live my lavish life.

God is going to judge these things but these men do not have the fear of God. If they really had the fear of God they could not deceive people, they could not send these letters out, they could not send all these letters and gimmick things across the U.S. to their mailing lists, just ripping off the people of God. God said, "Fear ye not Me?" and the answer is no they didn't.

will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it? (5:22).

I am the one who has established the boundaries of the sea, and the boundaries for man, and man is passing over the boundaries.

But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone (5:23).

They were revolting against the boundaries that God had set for propriety, for decency. They are rebellious and revolted and have gone over the line, over the mark.

Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the LORD our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season: he reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest. Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you (5:24–25).

This is an interesting verse, your sins have withheld good things from you. They had no knowledge that God is the one that has given the former and latter rains, our harvest, the one that is taking care of us. Because now of their sin they are hurting themselves. The good things that God desires to do for them He cannot do because of their sin.

There is an interesting verse of Scripture in Jude 1:21 where Jude exhorts those to whom he is writing to keep themselves in the love of God. Now, “God so loved the world.” When? When the world was in rebellion against Him. When did God start loving you? When you surrendered your life to Jesus Christ? No! God loved you long before you surrendered your life to Jesus Christ. God loved you from the beginning. God’s love for you is unconditional love. God loves you because that is His nature, it is not because you are so lovable. In fact it is in spite of the fact that you are so unlovable that He demonstrates His grace in loving you anyhow. But God who loves you wants to lavish His love upon you. He delights in just lavishing His love upon His children, doing good things for them. But if you don’t keep yourself in that place where God can do for you what He wants to your sin can keep you from the good that God desires for your life. It can keep back the blessings of God from your life. So the LORD said, “Your iniquity has turned away these things and your sins have withheld the good things from you.”

For among my people are found wicked men: they lay wait, as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch men (5:26).

How many traps are set for you as a child of God in the world today. How many traps the enemy sets for you, trying to destroy and catch you. It is hard to watch television. There are so many traps that the enemy sets. It is amazing how easy you can be trapped by some movie as you’re flipping channels. I am a real channel flipper. I am glad for that little remote control. ESPN is on channel six on my TV and channel 15 is Prime Ticket and that is about the only two channels I watch. Between rounds I flip back to channel six to find out what might be happening to the volleyball or whatever is there and I can watch football and volleyball at the same time and I can keep up with both. During the advertisements I flip to the other but you have to go down the line. As I am going past the channels to get to six I have to go past channel 12 that MTV or whatever it is. Boy, so many times Satan just sets the trap. Whoop! Flip it, hurry! You get snared and trapped. I don’t want to pollute my mind with that. It is so easy to let pollution enter in. Satan is setting a trap for you because whatever a man sows he is going to reap. If you sow to the flesh, then to the flesh you are going to reap corruption.

For among my people are found wicked men (5:26):

There are wicked men today who are seeking to set snares and traps for you.

As a cage is full of birds, so are their houses full of deceit: therefore they are become great, and waxen rich (5:27).

They have become very rich off of drug dealing, off of pornography, off of the polluting of the minds of people, they have caught them in the trap. One thing about that kind of pollution, once you get trapped you want more and more and you become a victim and you make them rich

They are waxen fat, they shine: yea, they overpass the deeds of the wicked: they judge not the cause, the cause of the fatherless, yet they prosper; and the right of the needy do they not judge (5:28).

They are corrupt but still they prosper. They have no real interest in the orphan, in the needy.

Shall I not visit for these things? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this? (5:29).

Can I let these things go by, can I just overlook these things? The answer is no. A righteous, holy God must judge the iniquity and sin of man or no longer is He righteous and holy and just. And so He is longsuffering and though He allows and tolerates so much, the judgment of God must come.

A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land (5:30);

Wonderful not in the sense of good. We might say of Rick Wakemen, isn't he a wonderful pianist, and yes, I wonder as his fingers go over the keys like fluid just comes out. I wonder at that kind of talent. That is in a good sense. There is also, filled with wonder that people can be so evil. These letters that these evangelists send out, I see them quite often, when I read them I say, what a wonderful letter. I am filled with wonder that these guys can be so corrupt, so deceiving, so hypocritical, filled with hypocrisy. I wonder that they can send these things in the name of God professing themselves to be servants of God. I am filled with wonder but that is in an evil sense. I wonder at the horrible practices filled with wonder, that in the name of God they can do such things. That is what the prophet is saying here. It is filled with wonder because it is so horrible, the things that are being committed in the land are so horrible. You just think, that cannot be, not in America. Surely that cannot be. And yet it is.

The prophets were prophesying falsely. For a while Calvary Chapel was on the mailing list of many of these evangelist but the poor computer cannot discern and thus we would get letters, "Dear Mr. Chapel, As I was praying this morning the Lord laid you upon my heart. And I received this deep burden that I could not sleep and I am so troubled and distressed. I know that there must be something wrong, Mr. Chapel. Please will you write to me and let me know what it is so I can pray for you in a more intelligent way. And Mr. Chapel, we are going through a great crises. Could you please enclose an offering with your request."

The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means (5:31);

The priests were ruling over the people. They were prophesying the lies but capturing and ruling over people with them. The amazing thing that caused such wonder is that the LORD said:

and my people love to have it so (5:31):

The people loved the false prophets. They loved to hear that everything is going to be all right. That if you send me a dollar then God will give you a hundred. And God wants you to be healthy and rich but you have to send to me in order to tap into God's riches that He will send to you. So we are sending out this month a miracle wallet. God help us! The people loved to have it so. They loved to hear these false prophets. They loved to hear that God will not punish evil. They loved to hear that everything is okay.

and what will ye do in the end thereof? (5:31).

They were loving to hear the fact that they were going to destroy Babylon. The prophets were saying, "As the LORD liveth, Babylon shall fall, fall before your forces. Thus saith the LORD, you will drive them back and you will not leave any of them standing, thus saith the LORD, Babylon will not come against this city. There shall not fall an arrow of the Babylonians within the city." And the people love to hear that. But it was a lie. So the prophet said, "What are you going to do in the end thereof when the arrows are falling in

the city, when the city is surrounded by the Babylonian armies and your supplies are cut off and your children are saying, "Daddy I'm hungry, and I want something to eat?" And you don't have anything to give them to eat because there is no food left in the city. What are you going to do in the end thereof when the walls are being broken down by the Babylonian army and the troops are pouring through the breeches? What are you going to do when there is that knock on the door and these men are speaking in a language which you don't understand giving hand signals to you as they threaten you with their swords and spears? What are you going to do in the end thereof when you are carried away as a slave to Babylon, taken from your wife and your children and you serve? The end thereof.

You have trusted in lies. You have made lies your hope. But now we have come to the end and the truth is revealed. You have forsaken God and God has forsaken you. It was only a surface kind of relationship, it was not with your whole heart. Now the truth is revealed but it is too late, you are captive, the end thereof. So the solemn warning by God through the prophet Jeremiah to these people and without us making the applications tonight you can see so many appropriate applications to our nation and our condition in these days. God help us to turn to the Lord with all of our hearts, not feigned religion but a true relationship. Forsake the flesh, forsake the things of the world. Seek righteousness and judgment that we might have mercy and goodness of God bestowed upon us.

Father, teach us Your ways that we might walk in Your paths. Lord, may we not be guilty of swearing by You, using spiritual jargon and yet, Lord, in our hearts worshipping false gods and idols. May we worship and serve You, the true and the living God with all of our heart and soul and strength, in Jesus' name. Amen.