

Navigating Uncertainty

Lesson 2

Jeremiah 2:1-3:5

September 20, 2020

Drifting from God

Introduction

It's easy to look at Judah and wonder how they went so far astray when God did so much for them. He gave them the promised land, fed them in the desert, saved them from the Egyptians, and so many more acts of love. Yet, through the generations, the Israelites drifted away from God.

Drifting away from God is not a sudden thing. The Israelites didn't wake up one day and decide to quit following God. It was a slow, gradual change as it is in our own lives. Life happens. We get distracted and busy. We miss a Bible study or put off our time in prayer. Going to church loses to chores that need to be done or obligations that can't be changed. Pretty soon, we find ourselves far away from God.

But God doesn't drift away from us. He is faithful to us and willing to welcome us back when we finally realize that we have drifted away.

Memory verse: "This is what the Lord says: 'What fault did your ancestors find in me? They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves.'"—Jeremiah 2:5

Pray and read Jeremiah 2:1-3:5. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What does the passage say?

1. How does God remember and view Israel? (Jeremiah 2:2-3)
2. What did Israel do? (Jeremiah 2:5-7, 11, 13)
3. What did the priests, rulers, and prophets do? (Jeremiah 2:8)
4. What have Israel's enemies done to them? Why? (Jeremiah 2:15-19)
5. To what does God compare Israel? (Jeremiah 2:23-24)
6. Who does Judah turn to when they are in trouble? What is God's response? (Jeremiah 2:27-28)
7. What does God ask Israel? (Jeremiah 2:31-32)
8. What does Israel believe, and what is God's warning? (Jeremiah 2:34-35)

What does the passage mean?

1. In Jeremiah 2:2, God reminds Israel that He had chosen them and that they had loved Him. How do we know that God chose us? (Exodus 19:5; Deuteronomy 7:6; Titus 2:14; James 1:18; 1 Peter 2:9; 1 John 2:3-6)
2. Judah had drifted away from God. How can we avoid drifting away from God? (Galatians 6:9; Hebrews 2:1; James 1:12, 25)
3. Judah had made themselves worthless by following worthless idols (Jeremiah 2:5). What warnings are given to us about following idols? (Exodus 20:3-6; Jonah 2:8; Psalm 16:4; Matthew 6:21-24; 1 John 2:16-17)

4. All Israel had to do was follow God and obey His commandments. Instead, they continued to drift from God instead of repenting. When we find ourselves drifting from God, what should we do to make things right with God again? (2 Chronicles 7:14; Proverbs 28:13; James 4:8; 1 John 1:9)

5. What spiritual habits should we have in our walk with God? (Psalm 119:11, 105; Luke 6:38; Acts 17:11; Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; James 1:22, 5:16)

Applying the passage

1. What caused you to fall in love with God? Why do you continue in your walk with God?

2. What causes you to drift away from God? What are the idols in your life?

3. What spiritual habits are hard for you to keep doing? Write a prayer confessing this to God, asking for His guidance, and enabling to do these good things.