

Navigating Uncertainty

Lesson 4

Jeremiah 9:1-26, 14:19-22

October 4, 2020

Putting Our Hope in God

Introduction

Jeremiah was filled with sorrow over the sins of Judah and the impending judgment from God. Judah had turned away from God and toward the idols of Baal. They had become adulterous and deceitful people, who couldn't be trusted. Yet, Jeremiah doesn't give up hope in God. He expresses that his hope remains in God. And in Jeremiah 29:11-13, God shares His plans with Jeremiah.

Jeremiah paints a pretty bleak picture of Judah. But this description is also accurate of our world today. Deceit has become part of our daily lives. Money and possessions have replaced Baal. And adultery is often celebrated. It becomes hard to see any goodness in the world. Like Jeremiah, our hope should also remain in God. And like God's promises to Jeremiah, God promises to fulfill His plans in us.

***Memory verse: "This is what the Lord says: 'Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,' declares the Lord."*—Jeremiah 9:23-24**

Pray and read Jeremiah 9:1-26 and 14:19-22. What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

What do the passages say?

1. What does Jeremiah wish his head were and that he had? Why? (Jeremiah 9:1-2)
2. What warning does the Lord give Jeremiah about his friends? (Jeremiah 9:4-6)
3. What is the Lord going to do in response to their deceit? (Jeremiah 9:7, 9, 11, 15-16)
4. Why is the Lord judging His people? (Jeremiah 9:13-14)
5. What does Jeremiah call the women to do, and why? (Jeremiah 9:20-21)
6. In what should people not boast, and in what should they boast? (Jeremiah 9:23-24)
7. What is Jeremiah acknowledging to God? What is he reminding God? (Jeremiah 14:19-21)
8. Where does Jeremiah say their hope is and why? (Jeremiah 14:22)

What do the passages mean?

1. Look again at Jeremiah 9:1. Jeremiah mourns the sinful nature of the people and begins the passage weeping for his slain people. Jeremiah is saddened that his people have turned from God and aren't repentant of their sins. How are we to approach our sins? (Psalm 119:136; 2 Corinthians 7:10; James 4:8-10; 1 John 1:9)

2. In Jeremiah 9:25, God warns Jeremiah that He will "punish all who are circumcised only in the flesh." God wants His people to turn back to Him and provides an opportunity for them to do so. But His patience can't last forever. What do we know about God's patience? (Psalm 103:8; Isaiah 30:18; Joel 2:13; 1 Timothy 1:16; 2 Peter 3:9)

3. Reread Jeremiah 9:23-24. God makes it clear that our confidence should come from knowing Him. How can we know God? (Psalm 62:8; John 14:21; Hebrews 11:6; James 4:8)

4. God is a just God. He expects His people to follow Him and His law. How are believers supposed to live? (Psalm 37:5-6; Matthew 6:33; 1 Timothy 6:11; James 5:16; 1 Peter 1:15-16)

5. Jeremiah trusted God even when he couldn't see any good in the world around him. How can we know that God is in control when our world seems out of control? (Deuteronomy 31:8; Proverbs 16:4; Isaiah 55:8-9; Jeremiah 14:22; Matthew 19:26)

Applying the passages

1. When was the last time you felt the gravity of your sins? What sins do you struggle with most?

2. Do you know God? Really know God? What keeps you from spending time with God in His Word and prayer?

3. Is your hope and trust in God, even when the world seems bleak? Write a prayer giving your trust to God.