

## BRIEF PERSPECTIVE ON JEREMIAH 2 - FIRST LOVE AND IDOLATRY

"God spoke all these words, saying, 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.'"

- Exodus 20:1-3

The sin of idolatry is the worst that God's people can commit as Jesus Himself said that the whole of the law hinged on the two commandments: to love God and neighbour.

Unlike the nation of Israel and Judah (and some Eastern cultures) that committed crass idolatry, the type of idolatry in Western countries are more subtle and a lot more dangerous.

The study today warns us that idolatry led to all types of problems and ultimately resulted in judgement.

But returning to God brings about restoration and a reminder of His love for us and our first love for Him.

## BRIEF PERSPECTIVE ON JEREMIAH 2 - FIRST LOVE AND IDOLATRY

### WARMING UP

1. How often do you think God thinks about you? Where can you find this truth?
2. How often do you think about God? What is the implication of who/ what is it that preoccupy our thoughts the most?

### INTO THE PASSAGES

#### What happened? The people forsook the LORD - Read Jeremiah 2:12-13

3. What was the tone of the LORD when declaring the people's spiritual state? How do you think the LORD felt?
4. How does one drink from the spring of living water? What are some examples of cistern making in our lives? In our church? In our nation?

#### Have we forgotten? Read Jeremiah 2:6-7, 20-22, 35

5. How did God demonstrate His love for us in the various verses (there are more examples)?

Verse 6. Where is the Lord, who brought us up out of Egypt .....  
God is our \_\_\_\_\_.

Verse 7. I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. God is our \_\_\_\_\_.

Verse 21. I had planted you like a choice vine. God is our \_\_\_\_\_.

6. In verse 35, what was the wrong belief that the people had with regard to sin and judgement?

#### What are we doing with our lives? Read Jeremiah 2:20-28, Matt 5:29

7. What was the response of the people when God confronted them with their sins?
8. Are there things that you cannot give up for God right now?

### MOVING FORWARD

Realize that men are prone to wander and that modern day idolatry can be so subtle and easily displace God from the throne of our lives.

Realize that only God **IS** the solution to men's problem of wandering and idolatry.

The Holy Spirit beckons us to return to the wonderful love relationship with the Father where we walk with Him and talk with Him daily.

It is the only way forward.

### LIFE TOGETHER

God's vision for us extend beyond our small group, our church and our nation.

The focus today is on our nation.

Pray for your political leaders. The idolatrous kings in Judah's last days led the nation astray and the people suffered.

Likewise, policies contrary to the truth of God will bring reproach to the nation. Pray that God will give wisdom and guide men and women of character into political leadership and that those in power will effect policies that honour God.

The destiny of the nation rest in the hand of the king but we have a God who can direct the stream of water as easily as He changes the heart of a king. Prov 21:1.

## BRIEF PERSPECTIVE ON JEREMIAH 2 - FIRST LOVE AND IDOLATRY

These notes are primarily for the Into the Passage portion, and are to be used just as guidelines or commentary notes. Most of them are my own thoughts, so take that with a grain of salt. Let the Word of God lead you to truth, not these notes.

### INTO THE PASSAGES

#### What happened? The people forsook the LORD - Read Jeremiah 2:12-13

3. What was the tone of the LORD when declaring the people's spiritual state? How do you think the LORD felt?

**The choice of words like 'appalled' [greatly dismayed, horrifying] and 'shudder' [tremble convulsively, typically as a result of fear or repugnance] convey God's sense of disappointment in His people. God must have felt terribly sad that His chosen people have rejected and forsaken Him.**

4. How does one drink from the spring of living water? What are some examples of cistern making in our lives? In our church? In our nation?

**The choice of words like 'appalled' [greatly dismayed, horrifying] and 'shudder' [tremble convulsively, typically as a result of fear or repugnance] convey God's sense of disappointment in His people. God must have felt terribly sad that His chosen people have rejected and forsaken Him.**

#### Have we forgotten? Read Jeremiah 2:6-7, 20-22, 35

5. How did God demonstrate His love for us in the various verses (there are more examples)?

Verse 6. Where is the Lord, who brought us up out of Egypt ..... God is our \_\_\_\_\_.

Verse 7. I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. God is our \_\_\_\_\_.

Verse 21. I had planted you like a choice vine. God is our \_\_\_\_\_.

**What is the significance of first love? Everything that God planned since the beginning of time was to reconcile men back to Himself through Jesus Christ. When men first tasted of**

**communion with God, it was sweet. We responded to God like a child and went to Him unabashed.**

**Verse 6. Where is the Lord, who brought us up out of Egypt ..... God is our Deliverer and Saviour.**

**Verse 7. I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. God is our Provider.**

**Verse 21. I had planted you like a choice vine. God is our Sustainer.**

6. In verse 35, what was the wrong belief that the people had with regard to sin and judgement?

**Some lacked the spiritual 'eyes' to see their true condition because they do not see themselves as God sees them. Their basis of 'seeing' is anything but the truth contained in the Word of God. Some argued that a God of love will have mercy and compassion on them but they failed to see that He is also a holy God who will judge His people because He loves them and is preparing a bride worthy of Him.**

#### What are we doing with our lives? Read Jeremiah 2:20-28, Matt 5:29

7. What was the response of the people when God confronted them with their sins?

**Brazen denial. Open rebellion. Unrestrained wrong doings.**

**RC Sproul wrote that the law was given after the Israelites had been delivered (they have been saved). So, obedience to the Law then was not a basis for righteousness but to live a life pleasing to God. Nonetheless, a sinful life must still be judged but it was a fatal judgement but a judgement with a view to restoration.**