

forLIFE

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OBJECT LESSON

This is what the Lord said to me: “Go and buy a linen belt and put it around your waist, but do not let it touch water.”² So I bought a belt, as the Lord directed, and put it around my waist.³ Then the word of the Lord came to me a second time: “Take the belt you bought and are wearing around your waist, and go now to Perath and hide it there in a crevice in the rocks.”⁴ So I went and hid it at Perath, as the Lord told me.⁵ Many days later the Lord said to me, “Go now to Perath and get the belt I told you to hide there.”⁶ So I went to Perath and dug up the belt and took it from the place where I had hidden it, but now it was ruined and completely useless.

Jeremiah 13:1-7

FIVE THEMES OF JEREMIAH’S MESSAGES

1 IDOLATRY

This is what the Lord says: “What fault did your ancestors find in me, that they strayed so far from me? They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves.”

Jeremiah 2:5

Has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols.

Jeremiah 2:11

“Where then are the gods you made for yourselves? Let them come if they can save you when you are in trouble! For you, Judah, have as many gods as you have towns.”

Jeremiah 2:28

2 IMMORALITY

“Why should I forgive you? Your children have forsaken me and sworn by gods that are not gods. I supplied all their needs, yet they committed adultery and thronged to the houses of prostitutes.⁸ They are well-fed, lusty stallions, each neighing for another man’s wife.”

Jeremiah 5:7-8

3 INJUSTICE

Like cages full of birds, their houses are full of deceit; they have become rich and powerful²⁸ and have grown fat and sleek. Their evil deeds have no limit; they do not seek justice. They do not promote the case of the fatherless; they do not defend the just cause of the poor.

Jeremiah 5:27-28

“Woe to him who builds his palace by unrighteousness, his upper rooms by injustice, making his own people work for nothing, not paying them for their labor.¹⁴ He says, ‘I will build myself a great palace with spacious upper rooms.’ So he makes large windows in it, panels it with cedar and decorates it in red.¹⁵ “Does it make you a king to have more and more cedar?

Did not your father have food and drink? He did what was right and just, so all went well with him.¹⁶ He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well. Is that not what it means to know me?” declares the Lord.¹⁷ “But your eyes and your heart are set only on dishonest gain, on shedding innocent blood and on oppression and extortion.”

Jeremiah 22:13-17

4 INSISTENCE ON HAVING THEIR OWN WAY

The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way. But what will you do in the end?

Jeremiah 5:31

5 INADEQUATE FEAR OF GOD

“Your wickedness will punish you; your backsliding will rebuke you. Consider then and realize how evil and bitter it is for you when you forsake the Lord your God and have no awe of me,” declares the Lord, the Lord Almighty.

Jeremiah 2:19

“Should you not fear me?” declares the Lord. “Should you not tremble in my presence? I made the sand a boundary for the sea, an everlasting barrier it cannot cross. The waves may roll, but they cannot prevail; they may roar, but they cannot cross it.²³ But these people have stubborn and rebellious hearts; they have turned aside and gone away.²⁴ They do not say to themselves, ‘Let us fear the Lord our God, who gives autumn and spring rains in season, who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest.’”

Jeremiah 5:22-24

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: In God’s kindness, :
: He warns us about the thieves that steal life from us. :
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LESSON FROM THE OBJECT LESSON

Then the word of the Lord came to me:⁹ “This is what the Lord says: ‘In the same way I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem.¹⁰ These wicked people, who refuse to listen to my words, who follow the stubbornness of their hearts and go after other gods to serve and worship them, will be like this belt—completely useless!¹¹ For as a belt is bound around the waist, so I bound all the people of Israel and all the people of Judah to me,’ declares the Lord, ‘to be my people for my renown and praise and honor. But they have not listened.’

Jeremiah 13:8-11

NEXT STEPS

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: Do you hear God’s heart to walk with you for LIFE? :
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