



# DECEITFUL HEART

AUGUST 2, 2020

**JEREMIAH** a prophet  
for the city

We don't like the word "sin." We prefer the word "mistake." But a mistake, by definition, is not intentional, whereas a sin implies a more sinister intention. Sin isn't just about behavior, it is primarily about the condition of our heart. Join us for part three of **Jeremiah: A Prophet for the City**, where we will explore the true nature of sin and the only cure for an incurably deceitful heart.

## PASSAGE (READ):

Jeremiah 17

## PRINCIPLE (KNOW):

The root of sin is not rooting your \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.

The fruit of sin is a \_\_\_\_\_ life.

The cure for sin is to be \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

## PRACTICE (DO):

Determine where your roots are planted by answering the following questions:

- What do you worry about most?
- What scares you?
- Is there anything or anyone that if you lost, you would be utterly lost and hopeless?
- Where does your mind go to be comforted and renewed?

Get convicted of your sin.

Be transplanted by the stream of living water, Jesus Christ.

## DAILY READINGS:

Day 1: Jeremiah 8-9

Day 2: Jeremiah 10-11

Day 3: Jeremiah 12-13

Day 4: Jeremiah 14

Day 5: Jeremiah 15

Day 6: Jeremiah 16

Day 7: Jeremiah 17

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

### BOOKS:

**Run with the Horses**, by Eugene Peterson

**Eat This Book**, by Eugene Peterson

**Precepts for Life: Jeremiah, Part 1 and 2**, by Kay Arthur

**Worldview: Thinking and Living Biblically**, by Greg Laurie and others

**Intro to the Major Prophets**, by J. B. Nicholson

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS



### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic]

1. Do you have any lingering questions or thoughts related to this week's teaching or daily readings?

2. Is it possible to be completely honest with God (expressing hurts, anger, and frustrations) and to still be reverent? Why or why not?

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

Jeremiah had a hard and unpopular message to deliver to the nation of Judah. People (especially the leaders) didn't always respond well to Jeremiah's sermons. It is important to remember that Jeremiah wasn't speaking and acting by his own will, but in obedience to God. In today's group discussion, we will look at how Jeremiah expressed his disappointment to God and how God responded.

3. Jeremiah's Prayer (Read Jeremiah 12:1-4.)

- What are Jeremiah's first words and why are they important given the nature of his complaint?
- What is Jeremiah's main complaint? Have you ever felt that way?
- In this week's sermon from Jeremiah 17, we saw that Jeremiah described sin like a shrub planted in the desert, yet here, Jeremiah says that God has planted the wicked so that they grow and produce fruit. Can you explain this apparent contradiction?
- Is there a difference between what Jeremiah was feeling and expressing in this prayer and reality? Is it okay to express our feelings to God even if we know those feelings are not rooted in fact?

4. God's Response (Read Jeremiah 12:5-6.)

- What is your first reaction to God's response to Jeremiah's prayer? How would you rephrase God's response in your own words?
- Is it humanly possible for a man to beat a horse in a foot race? What does that tell you about God's message to Jeremiah?
- God seems to be preparing Jeremiah for harder things to come. Based on verse 6, what is God saying to Jeremiah?

5. Jesus' Prayer (Read Mark 14:32-36.)

- What stands out to you about Jesus' prayer?
- How did God answer Jesus' prayer? Why is that important to know as a believer?
- What is similar and what is different between Jeremiah's and Jesus' prayers? What lessons should we learn from these prayers?
- Has there ever been a time, like Jeremiah, where you expressed an honest complaint to God? What happened as a result?
- Like Jesus, has there been a time when you have pleaded with God for a different outcome only to be told "no"?

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

6. God asked Jeremiah: "If you have raced with men on foot, and they have wearied you, how will you compete with horses?" Are you stumped by a particular situation right now to which God might ask you the same question? Talk about it, invite accountability, and take time to pray.