



**DATE:** 07 July 2024 AM  
**TEXT:** **Jeremiah 5:1-31**  
**TITLE:** **Hunt**

verb: to go in search of

Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem,  
and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places  
thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that  
executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth;  
and I will pardon it.

**Jeremiah 5:1**

## INTRODUCTION

- because of her disobedience to God, judgment was coming to Judah and her capital city, Jerusalem

**3:8-11** worse than Israel

in His mercy, God provided Jeremiah with a  
challenge to find **ONE** righteous person

a person who seeks truth and desires  
to do right...a person who thinks  
correctly...discerns

**Proverbs 23:23**

Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom,  
and instruction, and understanding.

**Romans 1:18**

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven  
against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of  
men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

that one person would cause God to stay  
His hand of judgment and stop the invasion

NOTE: in **Genesis 18:23-32**, Abraham negotiated with  
God in a similar fashion...for ten righteous people, God  
would spare Sodom and Gomorrah

- this was one of ten “action sermons” God called on Jeremiah to preach

when people become so spiritually dull they can't hear God's message, He graciously stoops to their level to illustrate His truth

### **Acts 28:27**

For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed;

the action sermons in *Jeremiah* are:

the search	5:1-6
the soiled belt	13:1-11
the unwed prophet	16:1-9
the potter	18:1-12
the broken vessel	19:1-15
the yokes	27-28
the purchased field	32:1-15
the wine party	35:1-19
the stones	43:8-13
the sunken scroll	51:59-64

NOTE: these action sermons are also to be found in the book of *Ezekiel*

- the search for one righteous person...in the **BROAD PLACES** no less...resulted in failure

**rather, this message concerns the people Jeremiah found instead:**

# I. UNREPENTANT VERSES 2-6

## A. THE RELIGIOUS CROWD **verse 2**

And though they say, The LORD liveth;  
surely they swear falsely.

there will always be those who say one thing  
and do another

**hypocrite = actor in a mask**

### **Titus 1:16**

They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

### **2 Timothy 3:5**

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

God knew about the **TARES** sown among the **WHEAT**...they could be difficult to discern

see **Matthew 13:24-43**

## B. THE RELUCTANT CLASS **verses 4-5**

in his search, Jeremiah found two classes of people he identified:

**the poor:** these were the ones who had never learned the right way in life

### **Matthew 22:29**

Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

**the great (rich):** these were learned, but they were indifferent **verse 27**

### **Job 21:14**

Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways.

according to **verse 3**, both classes had experience in the workings of God...they simply failed to put the pieces together

### **Romans 1:21**

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

## **C. THE RESULTING CURSE verses 5b-6**

...but these have altogether broken the yoke, and burst the bonds.

like stubborn animals, Judah had broken away from their master and would suffer the consequences

like a lion, a wolf, and a leopard  
the enemy would come upon them

notice the three-fold plan of attack...  
this is how Babylon conquered Judah

*cf* **Jeremiah 2:15 (4:7)**

### **1 Peter 5:8**

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

## 2. UNGRATEFUL VERSES 7-9

### A. THE GOODNESS OF GOD

God went on to ask two penetrating questions:

- 1) Why should I forgive you?
- 2) How should I punish you?

He had been gracious to feed them until they were full and satisfied

#### **Romans 2:4**

Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

### B. THE GROSSNESS OF THE PEOPLE

in return, they followed the lusts of their flesh...harlots, sexual sins, etc.

#### **Romans 1:26-27**

For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.

see **Psalm 107: 8, 15, 21, 31**

Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men.

### 3. UNFAITHFUL VERSES 10-19

**verse 11** For the house of Israel and the house of Judah have dealt very treacherously against me, saith the LORD.

the northern kingdom of Israel was already dispersed among the Assyrian Empire, but God had not forgotten about them **2:4**

in Hebrew, the word *treacherously* appears twice to emphasize the heinousness of their betrayal

#### A. THEY LIED ABOUT GOD

**verses 12-13** false prophets had come along and declared the opposite of what Jeremiah had been preaching

##### **1 Thessalonians 5:3**

For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

##### **Ephesians 5:6**

Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

#### B. THEY LEARNED THE HARD WAY

**verses 14-15** God promised to make Jeremiah's words as fire and compared the people to wood...there was coming a great *conflagration*

##### **Jeremiah 23:29**

Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

God spoke of a nation from afar...mighty, ancient and whose words Judah would not understand

they had been warned:

**Deuteronomy 28:49-52**

**verses 10, 18** again we are shown the mercy of God in that He would not utterly destroy His people

His promise to not make a full end of the nation is repeated throughout *Jeremiah*

**Jeremiah 4:27 (30:11) 46:28**

*other* nations would be destroyed, but God would bring Israel back...restored

**Ezra 9:8**

And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage.

#### **4. UNCONCERNED VERSES 20-31**

to close out his action sermon, Jeremiah summarized with two broad topics:

##### **A. GOD'S GREATNESS verses 20-22**

the people were foolish because they had eyes but could not see the power of God all around them

sand...sea...waves...rain...harvest

**Romans 1:19-20**

Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

## B. PEOPLE'S WEAKNESS **verses 23-30**

**REVOLTING** and **REBELLIOUS** hearts

revolting = stubborn

rebellious = bitter; disobedient

in addition, they were *foolish, blind, deaf, wicked*

**verse 31** ...my people love to have it so

in other words, **they were right where they wanted to be**

**verse 31**

...and what will ye do in the end thereof?

God asked them to think logically to the end of their choices

How will this turn out?

What do you expect will happen?

**Proverbs 14:12**

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

**UNREPENTANT**

**UNGRATEFUL**

**UNFAITHFUL**

**UNCONCERNED**