



DATE: 14 July 2024 AM
TEXT: **Jeremiah 7:1-19**
TITLE: **Heedless**

adjective: not paying close attention, especially for the purpose of avoiding trouble

Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all ye of Judah, that enter in at these gates to worship the LORD. Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place.

Jeremiah 7:2-3

INTRODUCTION

YOU TUBE video: Jeremy Smith, living on Smith Island

- once again, we find Jeremiah preaching in the gate...this time the gate of the Temple

compare **Jeremiah 17:19** gates of the city

RELIGION was thriving in Jerusalem

Jeremiah's father, Hilkiah, was the High Priest under King Josiah, when a revival started **1:1**

2 Kings 22

that revival was fading into empty religion

maybe because of the location, this was the largest crowd Jeremiah had preached to at this point in his ministry

since his father was a priest, Jeremiah would have been familiar with the Temple area and many of the religious leaders coming in and out of there

verse 16

Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.

also **Jeremiah 11:14 (14:11-12)**

sadly, God told Jeremiah the people were so wicked that he should not even bother to pray for them

the good news for us? there is no NT equivalent for this in the Church Age

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Where there's life, there is hope

what the people missed by not being right with God is the challenge before us this morning:

verse 3

Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place.

the nation itself had existed over 500 years

the Northern Kingdom was gone

the people of Judah existed, but they were not really living

God *didn't* say "I will cause you to *continue* to live in this place"

**dwell = to abide; to inhabit;
to have a life**

John 10:10

...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

the carelessness of the people led to:

1. HOLLOW WORSHIP

the false prophets in Jeremiah's day had declared peace when there was no peace to be found

Jeremiah 6:14

They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

the judgment of God through the Babylonian army had already been determined **ch 4**

verse 4

Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, are these.

this phrase, repeated three times, seems to have become a good luck mantra to the people:

Matthew 15:8

This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

Jesus was quoting **Isaiah 29:13**

Isaiah had been dead 100 years at the time Jeremiah preached

verses 13, 25 ...rising up early...

God had made Israel His **PRIORITY**

He had sent prophets to warn them

did you come prepared for church this morning???

Matthew 6:33 Seek ye first...

2 Timothy 3:5 Having a form of godliness

the carelessness of the people led to:

2. HIDDEN WICKEDNESS

verse 11 Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes?

cf **Matthew 21:12-13**

a den of robbers is a place where thieves go when they have been successful in their wickedness

a lair, a hide-out, a clubhouse

some are hiding in church today

verses 6, 9 Jeremiah listed six/ten commandments

what did you bring with you to church???

how do we treat church? our spiritual life?

Ephesians 5:1-7

verse 3 not named once among you...

named = identified, thought about

verse 12 God reminded the people about what happened when the Tabernacle was set up at Shiloh

Joshua 18:1 and Judges 18:31

the tribe of Dan was the first to wander off into idolatry and as a result, lost eternal rewards...**Revelation 7:4-8**

the carelessness of the people led to:

3. HEINOUS WAVERING

verses 17-19 entire families were being consumed by false religion...*confusion of their faces*

i.e. the people didn't fully understand the damage they were doing, but it showed on their faces

children gathered wood

fathers kindled the fire

mothers kneaded the dough

verse 31 ...*places of Tophet*

= **r/w is tambourine** because music was played loudly to cover the screams of the children dying in the fires

NOTE: Ishtar, Ba'al and the fertility rites of false religions...*comparable to the garbage we allow in our lives...Hinnom was the garbage dump of Jerusalem*

parents are called to be "God" to our children, and they in turn are commanded to honor us

Exodus 20:12 (Ephesians 6:2)

but are we *honorable*???

rather, today's families chase after the modern form of idol worship:

fame, popularity

recreation, possessions

the breakdown of the family, today???

Philippians 3:18-19 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)