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# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks  
Baptist Church  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
When God forgives, He removes the sin and restores the soul

**POEM FOR THE WEEK:**  
Life's fractures can be mended  
By faith in Christ the Lord—  
At first the pain but then the gain  
And usefulness restored. —Hess

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**  
*Thus says the Lord: "Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.*  
(Jer 6:16 NKJV)

*(From "Our Daily Bread", July 28, 2010)*

**Series: GOD DEMANDS JUSTICE**

UNIT: Advocates of Justice  
for All

NEXT WEEK

**A Call for Repentance**  
(Ezekiel 18:1-13, 30-32)

## Mend Your Ways Jer 7:1-15

**Aim and Application of the Lesson**

The lesson wants us to see what God has laid out for us as a condition for retaining our favored position by **Mending Our Ways**. The **study's aim** is to see understand that God is sovereign and can do anything He sees is beneficial in the long run for His people. The **study's application** is to order our lives so as to honor God, escape discipline, and live under His blessings.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

**Lesson Introduction and Background**

The prophet Jeremiah ministered in the late seventh and early sixth centuries BC, during the final years of the monarchy of Judah (Jeremiah 1:1-3). That was the southern part of Israel's divided kingdom. In that day, Judah was confronted by the aggressive Babylonian Empire. The Babylonians oppressed Judah over a period of several years, treating it as a vassal kingdom (2 Kings 24). The Babylonians ultimately laid siege to Jerusalem, put it to the sword and torch, destroyed its temple, and took its people into exile (2 Kings 25). From one perspective, these events could appear to be a simple issue of power politics: Babylon was strong; Judah was not. But from the perspective of Jeremiah, these events fulfilled warnings that God had given his people long ago. As God gave Israel the land of promise, he had warned that they must receive it as a gift, with gratitude reflected in obedience. Submitting to God's law would mean blessing; disobedience would mean return to captivity (Deuteronomy 29:14-29). That penalty was partially realized as Jeremiah delivered the prophecy of today's lesson, since the territory of Israel's 10 northern tribes had been overrun by the Assyrians about a century before Jeremiah began prophesying (2 Kings 17:5-23). But God had granted Judah a miraculous deliverance in that same era (18:13-19:37). That deliverance had become a source of misplaced confidence by Jeremiah's day. Many believed that God would never allow his temple to fall.

While probably few Christians see the Christian-themed knickknacks in their houses to be godly good-luck charms, it's easy to treat particular religious routines as such. Danger looms when we perceive our standing with God in light of reliance on such practices. Faithfulness to routine is one thing; having faith in the routine is quite another! We easily note and critique such misplaced faith when displayed in others, don't we? But it may not be so easy to recognize the problem when it is our own.

God's message was stern and uncompromising. Yet despite Judah's failure, God's promise was still in force to establish David's throne forever (2 Samuel 7:16). Today we know that we have received the fulfillment of that promise in Jesus. We also should realize that we have a clear responsibility regarding how we are to live before God. As followers of Christ, we are to promote God's justice. We are not to be hypocrites who worship God outwardly while plotting rebellion inwardly. As the God of the temple would not be mocked, neither will the God of the cross—the same God.

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **GOD'S OFFER (JER 7:1-3)**

#### *Hear the Word (1-2)*

- Hear so that belief is confirmed (Rom 10:14)
- Hear so that faith is strengthened (Rom 10:17)
- Hear because it is the Word of God (1 Thess 2:13)
- Hear to understand better (Mark 4:22-24)
- Hear because it makes us part of the family of Jesus (Luke 8:21)
- Hear because it is a blessing (Luke 11:28)

#### *Safe dwelling (3)*

- Safe dwelling because of obedience (Deut 4:40)
- Safe dwelling because of repentance (Jer 18:7-8)
- Safe dwelling because of humility and prayer (2 Chron 7:14)
- Safe dwelling because God makes it so (Jer 33:4-9)

### **GOD'S WARNINGS (JER 7:4-15)**

#### *Do not worship the temporary (4)*

- Do not worship the temporary, instead fix our eyes on God (2 Cor 4:18)
- Do not worship the temporary, instead set our hearts on things above (Col 3:1-3)
- Do not worship the temporary, instead seek things of greater value (Heb 11:24-27)
- Do not worship the temporary, instead look for the enduring (Heb 13:14)

#### *Always seek justice (5-7)*

- Justice that comes from righteous wisdom (Ps 37:30)
- Justice that comes from the plans of the righteous (Prov 12:5)
- Justice that comes from doing right (Prov 21:3)
- Justice that comes from insight (Ps 119:98-100)

#### *Beware of the wicked (8-9)*

- Wicked who are intent on cruelty (Ps 71:4-5)
- Wicked who prey on the weak and needy (Ps 82:4-5)
- Wicked who should be expelled (1 Cor 5:13)
- Wicked who are unbelievers (Rom 15:31)

#### *Don't put faith in worldly things (10-11)*

- Because the world thinks the things of God are foolishness (1 Cor 2:14)
- Because the world seeks answers through human ideas (Acts 17:16-21)
- Because the world uses human wisdom, which God frustrates and destroys (1 Cor 1:16-21)
- Because the world is being veiled by Satan (2 Cor 4:3-4)

#### *God's wrath is against those who reject Him (12-13)*

- Rejecting God through ignoring God's call and advice (Prov 1:24-26)
- Rejecting God will cause God's anger to burn (Isa 5:24-25)
- Rejecting God through backsliding (Jer 15:6)
- Rejecting God through oppressing and deceiving others (Isa 30:12-13)

#### *Continued unbelief will result in eternal separation from God (14-15)*

- Separation from God because of iniquities (Isa 59:2)
- Separation from God through being an unbeliever (2 Cor 6:15-17)
- Separation from God because of unfaithfulness (Deut 32:19-20)
- Separation from God because of wickedness (Prov 15:29)