

May 24, 2020



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Repent of Injustice Jeremiah 22:1-10

Lesson Background and Introduction

God called Jeremiah as a young man to be His prophet to Judah; Jeremiah's own evaluation was that he was too young and not qualified to speak (Jeremiah 1:6). The forthcoming confrontations would seem, at times, to be just two against everyone else. But since one of those two was God (1:17-19), there could be no question regarding the outcome. Jeremiah's early years of prophetic ministry under King Josiah were easy compared to what was to come. The word from the Lord to the house of David features two promises: (1) If David's descendants would renounce injustice, then God would bless them, but (2) if not, they would suffer punishment. Judah would experience the full and recognizable consequences of walking away from God. God would therefore exhibit His character to the world and draw people to himself in one of those two ways. God calls us to the same challenge He posed through Jeremiah. As we demonstrate God's righteous and just character in our actions, we also must expose the injustice inflicted on the powerless by oppressive people and systems. But we don't just draw people to God as an abstract. Rather, we draw people to the living Jesus. To reject this mission is to risk experiencing God in ways we will not like.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

Jeremiah Laid Out Choices - Years before the Babylonians came to conquer Jerusalem, Jeremiah issued a stem message to King Jehoiakim: repent and receive God's reward, or reject His words and surfer punishment. Jeremiah's message implied God would turn things around in Judah's favor if the king listened. He needed to call the nation to stop their crooked behaviors toward the less fortunate, and God would protect the city and His people. However, if not, God's consequences were coming, and they were severe.

The Leaders Took Advantage - The people felt the oppression. The leaders heavily taxed the citizens, made them labor without pay, and erected beautiful buildings for the royal family. They also committed violent acts against the people, to the point of bloodshed.

Jeremiah's Sermon Penetrated Deep - The royals depended on their connection to David—God promised his house would be eternal. But because of their continued sinfulness, the message was very plain: it's going to happen. In the future, many people from the surrounding nations would pass by God's country and city and scratch their heads. Why would the almighty God of the Israelites allow them to be plundered? They would conclude, the people worshiped idols and forsook the true and living God.

What Can Be Done - When we are well-off, it is easy for us to forget about the homeless, widows, those without parents, and foreigners coming into the country. Our daily routines and activities can overshadow those outside our families or circle of friends who are calling for help. But God's ear is sensitive to their cry, and He tells us to help. Therefore, Christians should always be asking, how can we help this population? What would God have us do?

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Standing for justice means fighting against injustice

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:
Open my eyes, Lord, to people around me, Help me to see them as You do above; Give me the wisdom and strength to take action So others may see the depth of Your love.
—K. De Haan

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
But you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and the Lord your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this thing
(Deut 24:18 NKJV)
(from "Our Daily Bread", Feb 20, 2009)

Series: Justice and the Prophets

UNIT: Called to God's Work of Justice

NEXT WEEK

Pursue Love and Justice
(Hosea 11:1-2, 7-10;
Hosea 12:1-2, 6-14)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Command For Justice (Jer 22:1-5)

Command from God for justice (1-2)

- 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)
- Justice is one of the requirements of God (Mic 6:8)
- Justice is the manifestation of loving God (Luke 11:42)

Command for righteous judgments (3)

- Righteous because God's judgment is based on truth (Rom 2:2)
- Righteous because God judges in righteousness and justice (Ps 9:7-8)
- Righteous because God is righteous in all His ways (Ps 145:17)
- Righteous because God will judge the world through Jesus (Acts 17:31)
- Righteous because God's judgment is right (2 Thess 1:5)
- Righteous because God's judgments are always righteous (Ps 96:13)

Command of choice for obedience (4-5)

- Choose obedience because of the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Thess 1:4-7)
- Choose obedience because of the certainty of God's word (2 Peter 1:19)
- Choose obedience because breaking just one point makes one guilty of all of it (James 2:8-10)
- Choose obedience because to obey is to be counted righteous (Rom 2:13)
- Choose obedience because God will punish those who do not obey (2 Thess 1:8)
- Choose obedience because it is shameful to be disobedient (2 Thess 3:14)
- Choose obedience because judgment starts with the family of God (1 Peter 4:17)
- Choose obedience because no one knows the time when Jesus will come back (Rev 3:3)

Warnings for Injustice (Jer 22:6-10)

Warning of destruction (6-7)

- Destruction by the Almighty God (Isa 13:6)
- Destruction because of man's sinful nature (Gal 6:8)
- Destruction by a just God (2 Thess 1:6-9)
- Destruction of the ungodly (2 Peter 3:7)
- Destruction caused by pride (Prov 16:18)
- Destruction that is swift (2 Peter 2:1)

Warning of condemnation (8-9)

- Condemnation for those who exploit others (2 Peter 2:3)
- Condemnation for preaching a false gospel (Gal 1:7-9)
- Condemnation for those who have not believed the truth (2 Thess 2:12)
- Condemnation for those who deceive (2 Cor 11:15)
- Condemnation for those who disbelieve (Mark 16:16)
- Condemnation for judging one another (Rom 2:1)

Warning of exiling (10) (separation)

- Exiled because of disobedience (Deut 28:45-48)
- Exiled because of prideful leaders (Isa 39:6-7)
- Exiled because of sin (Jer 15:13-14)
- Exiled through their own fault (Jer 17:4)
- Exiled because of doing evil in the sight of God (2 Kings 23:31-34)
- Exiled because of not trusting God (Jer 42:18-19)