**Jeremiah: It’s the Last Hour**

**It’s Late and We’re Lost**

**Jeremiah 8:18-9:11**

**July 19, 2015**

Live with a **PASSION** for God’s righteousness and a **LOVE** for God’s people.

**3 Guidelines for Dealing with Grief…**

1. Focus on **CURRENT CONDITIONS**. Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

**Jeremiah 8:18–9:11 — 18** *My joy is gone; grief is upon me; my heart is sick within me.*  ***19*** *Behold, the cry of the daughter of my people from the length and breadth of the land: “Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?” “Why have they provoked me to anger with their carved images and with their foreign idols?”*

**Sympathy -** Feel what other people feel.

**Hebrews 10:30–31 — *30*** *For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.”*  ***31*** *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

…**Romans 12:15 — *15*** *Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.*

**1 Corinthians 12:26 — 26** *If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.*

**1 Thessalonians 4:13 — 13** *But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.*

***20*** *“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.”*  ***21*** *For the wound of the daughter of my people is my heart wounded; I mourn, and dismay has taken hold on me.*

**Empathy -**identified with their grief.

…**Luke 16:22–26 — 22** *The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried,*  ***23*** *and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.*  ***24*** *And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’*  ***25*** *But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.*  ***26*** *And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’*

***22*** *Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored?*  ***1*** *Oh that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!*

**Remedy -**Jeremiah longed for a remedy for the condition of his people, but he didn’t see one in sight.

1. Work through **CONFUSING SITUATIONS**. Jeremiah 9:2-9

C. S. Lewis wrote about how grief can cause confusion, even in our relationship with God in his book A Grief Observed…

Meanwhile, where is God? This is one of the most disquieting symptoms. When you are happy, so happy that you have no sense of needing Him, so happy that you are tempted to feel His claims upon you as an interruption, if you remember yourself and turn to Him with gratitude and praise, you will be—or so it feels—welcomed with open arms. But go to Him when your need is desperate, when all other help is vain, and what do you find? A door slammed in your face, and a sound of bolting and double bolting on the inside. After that, silence. You may as well turn away. The longer you wait, the more emphatic the silence will become. There are no lights in the windows. It might be an empty house. Was it ever inhabited? It seemed so once. And that seeming was as strong as this. What can this mean? Why is He so present a commander in our time of prosperity and so very absent a help in time of trouble?

***2*** *Oh that I had in the desert a travelers’ lodging place, that I might leave my people and go away from them! For they are all adulterers, a company of treacherous men.*  ***3*** *They bend their tongue like a bow; falsehood and not truth has grown strong in the land; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they do not know me, declares the Lord.*

***Isolation -*** What did Jeremiah want to do? He wanted to get away from it all.

…**Galatians 1:15–18 — 15** *But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace,*  ***16*** *was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone;*  ***17*** *nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.*  ***18*** *Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days.*

***4*** *Let everyone beware of his neighbor, and put no trust in any brother, for every brother is a deceiver, and every neighbor goes about as a slanderer.*  ***5*** *Everyone deceives his neighbor, and no one speaks the truth; they have taught their tongue to speak lies; they weary themselves committing iniquity.*  ***6*** *Heaping oppression upon oppression, and deceit upon deceit, they refuse to know me, declares the Lord.*

***Condemnation -*** Be honest about sin, in your own life and in the lives of others.

***7*** *Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: “Behold, I will refine them and test them, for what else can I do, because of my people?*  ***8*** *Their tongue is a deadly arrow; it speaks deceitfully; with his mouth each speaks peace to his neighbor, but in his heart he plans an ambush for him.*  ***9*** *Shall I not punish them for these things? declares the Lord, and shall I not avenge myself on a nation such as this?*

***Reformation -*** God has to judge sin because of who He is and because of what sin is.

…**Hebrews 12:11–13 — 11** *For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*  ***12*** *Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees,*  ***13*** *and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.*

1. Look for **COMPLETE TRANSFORMATION**. Jeremiah 9:10-11

***10*** *“I will take up weeping and wailing for the mountains, and a lamentation for the pastures of the wilderness, because they are laid waste so that no one passes through,*

***Hospitality -***We’re not only called to love God supremely, we’re also called to serve others faithfully.

*and the lowing of cattle is not heard; both the birds of the air and the beasts have fled and are gone.*

***Productivity -*** One of the things that happens in times of judgment is that the level of productivity goes down.

***11*** *I will make Jerusalem a heap of ruins, a lair of jackals, and I will make the cities of Judah a desolation, without inhabitant.”*

***Revolutionary -*** All of creation has been impacted by sin

…**Romans 8:20–22 — 20** *For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope*  ***21*** *that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.* ***22*** *For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.*

Live with a **PASSION** for God’s righteousness and a **LOVE** for God’s people.

Love God supremely and serve others faithfully. Be troubled over sin because you have a passion for God’s righteousness. Be equally troubled over judgment because you have a love for people.

Jesus bore our **GRIEF**, so that we could experience **ETERNAL JOY**!

Let’s talk about being late and lost…

1. What kinds of things make you heartsick (8:18)?
2. Why was Jeremiah heartsick (8:19)?
3. What was the reason the people perceived that the LORD had deserted them (8:19)?
4. When is it too late for someone to turn in faith to Jesus (8:20)?
5. What is the balm in Gilead that needs to be applied to the wounds in our hearts today (8:22)?
6. Why was Jeremiah so conflicted over what was happening in Judah (9:1-2)?
7. How do we become confused and conflicted when we see sin in the lives of those we love?
8. What happens in a society where there is no truth (9:4-6)?
9. Why don’t people know the LORD (9:6)?
10. Why is judgment necessary (9:9)?
11. How has sin impacted God’s good creation and what can we do about it (9:10-11)?