**Jeremiah: It’s the Last Hour**

**The Honeymoon Is Over**

**Jeremiah 2:1-3:5**

**March 15, 2015**

Remember the honeymoon of your **FAITH** & Return to your **FAITHFUL GOD**.

***5 Thoughts to Shape our Faith…***from **Jeremiah 2:1-3:5**.

1. Think about God’s **GRACE** & be **DEVOTED** to God. **Jeremiah 2:1-8**

**Jeremiah 2:1–3:5 — 1** *The word of the Lord came to me, saying,* ***2*** *“Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem, Thus says the Lord, “I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown.* ***3*** *Israel was holy to the Lord, the firstfruits of his harvest. All who ate of it incurred guilt; disaster came upon them, declares the Lord.”*

***4*** *Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the clans of the house of Israel.* ***5*** *Thus says the Lord: “What wrong did your fathers find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthlessness, and became worthless?*

***6*** *They did not say, ‘Where is the Lord who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that none passes through, where no man dwells?’*

***7*** *And I brought you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its good things. But when you came in, you defiled my land and made my heritage an abomination.* ***8*** *The priests did not say, ‘Where is the Lord?’ Those who handle the law did not know me; the shepherds transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal and went after things that do not profit.*

1. Think about God’s **CHASTENING** & **FEAR** God. **Jeremiah 2:9-19**

***9*** *“Therefore I still contend with you, declares the Lord, and with your children’s children I will contend.* ***10*** *For cross to the coasts of Cyprus and see, or send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has been such a thing.* ***11*** *Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit*

***12*** *Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the Lord,* ***13*** *for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.*

 **John 4:13–14 — 13** *Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,* ***14*** *but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”*

***17*** *Have you not brought this upon yourself by forsaking the Lord your God, when he led you in the way?* ***18*** *And now what do you gain by going to Egypt to drink the waters of the Nile? Or what do you gain by going to Assyria to drink the waters of the Euphrates?* ***19*** *Your evil will chastise you, and your apostasy will reprove you. Know and see that it is evil and bitter for you to forsake the Lord your God; the fear of me is not in you, declares the Lord God of hosts.* They couldn’t blame anyone but themselves for the compromising and dangerous alliances they had entered into. They wouldn’t find any help from either Egypt or Assyria when God brings His judgment on them through the Babylonians. If you are experiencing the chastening of the LORD, it’s because of what you have done. Don’t try to run from it. Face it and fear God. Thinking about the chastening of the LORD will shape your faith just as surely as thinking about the grace of God. Third…

1. Think about our **ADDICTION** & **SEEK** God. **Jeremiah 2:20-28**

***22*** *Though you wash yourself with lye and use much soap, the stain of your guilt is still before me, declares the Lord God.* ***23*** *How can you say, ‘I am not unclean, I have not gone after the Baals’? Look at your way in the valley; know what you have done— a restless young camel running here and there,* ***24*** *a wild donkey used to the wilderness, in her heat sniffing the wind*

***25*** *Keep your feet from going unshod and your throat from thirst. But you said, ‘It is hopeless, for I have loved foreigners, and after them I will go.’* ***26*** *“As a thief is shamed when caught, so the house of Israel shall be shamed: they, their kings, their officials, their priests, and their prophets,* ***27*** *who say to a tree, ‘You are my father,’ and to a stone, ‘You gave me birth.’ For they have turned their back to me, and not their face.*

**If God doesn’t bring judgment on our nation, He’s going to have to apologize to Israel.**

1. Think about God’s **WORD** & be **HONEST** with God. **Jeremiah 2:29-37**

***31*** *And you, O generation, behold the word of the Lord. Have I been a wilderness to Israel, or a land of thick darkness? Why then do my people say, ‘We are free, we will come no more to you’?*

*Yet in spite of all these things* ***35*** *you say, ‘I am innocent; surely his anger has turned from me.’ Behold, I will bring you to judgment for saying, ‘I have not sinned.’*

1. Think about God’s **FAITHFULNESS** & **RETURN** to God. **Jeremiah 3:1-5**

***4*** *Have you not just now called to me, ‘My father, you are the friend of my youth—* ***5*** *will he be angry forever, will he be indignant to the end?’ Behold, you have spoken, but you have done all the evil that you could.”* Pious words ring hollow when unfaithfulness continues. Think about God’s faithfulness and return to the LORD.

**Ephesians 5:25–27 — 25** *Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,* ***26*** *that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,* ***27*** *so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.*

Would you return?

* Talk about God’s grace in your life regularly.
* Respond to God Word intentionally.
* Confess your unfaithfulness to God honestly.
* Find the satisfaction you long for in Jesus immediately.

Remember the honeymoon of your **FAITH** & Return to your **FAITHFUL GOD**.

Let’s talk about when the honeymoon is over…

1. What is the LORD reminding His people about in Jeremiah 2:1-3?
2. What was your devotion to God like when you first came to faith in Jesus? How has it changed since then?
3. When have you been tempted to accuse God of not being true to His word in your life (v.4-6)?
4. What had God’s people done to change their experience of the plentiful land He had led them to (v.7)?
5. How do we take the good things that God has given us to enjoy and turn them into something that is horrible?
6. What did the LORD say about the leadership of His people and their part in the decline of their devotion to the LORD (v.8)?
7. What happened in Israel that had not happened in any other country (v.10-11)?
8. What two evils had God’s people committed (v.13)?
9. What are the broken cisterns that people turn to today instead of turning to the LORD?
10. What was God’s response to the faithlessness of His people (v.14-17)?
11. Who was Israel looking to for relief from the disasters they were facing (v.18)?
12. What does the LORD compare His people to (v.20-24)?
13. How is idolatry like addiction?
14. Who does God suggest that His people should call for help (v.28)?
15. How far had Israel gone in her evil ways (v.33)?
16. What does God tell His people was the sign of His judgment on them (v.3)?
17. How do you know that their repentance was not genuine (v.4-5)?
18. What area of your life are you living in denial about because of an idol that has taken God’s place?