



Lesson 13 May 23rd, 2020

Repent of Injustice

JUNIORS

Study Scripture – Jeremiah 22:1-10

Background Scripture – Jeremiah 22

Key Verse:

“Thus says the LORD: “Execute judgment and righteousness, and deliver the plundered out of the hand of the oppressor. Do no wrong and do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, or the widow nor shed innocent blood in this place.”

Jeremiah 22:3

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever done something that you are not proud of doing? All of us have found ourselves in that situation at some point in our life because we have gotten tired of the discipline that our parents put us under. Sometimes we try to find some way out and we make all kind of excuses as to why we are doing what we should not do. But there is a right way to deal with any situation that you're in.

One writer tells us of his experience as he warns us that we often look for an easier way which is not really there but which only seems to be there. He tells us:

“I remember movies of kids getting a stick and pillowcase and wrapping all of their possessions in it and then walking off into the woods. Seems so simple until you think of the consequences! What if it rains? What if I run out of food? Of course most of us when we do things in haste don't think far enough of the consequences”.

We are therefore now looking today at some leaders who had a firm agreement with God to behave in certain special ways that God wanted. They had made a vow that they would be obedient to God's commandments. The King and the other leaders had been warned that they had to do several things that would be pleasing to God. This included:

- Being fair to everybody when they had to make decisions about who was right when there were quarrels, disagreements and arguments among the people in the nation.
- When somebody who was powerful was doing wrong things to others, bullying them, and taking advantage of their weakness the King should stop that kind of behaviour.
- The King and rulers were not to do or to allow wrong things to happen and should not allow violence to be done to strangers that were visiting or living in the nation.
- The King and rulers should have a special responsibility to look after and support those that have no fathers or mothers, the woman whose husband had died and could not support themselves.

- The King should ensure that people that were innocent of wrongdoings should not be killed and their goods and properties taken away because someone more powerful than they wanted to rob them.

All of these things were forbidden by God. The entire nation of Judah and their leaders had long ago promised faithfully that because they were in a covenant or special arrangement and special relationship with God they would not allow these bad things to happen to anyone in the nation. The law and Commandments of God had told the Kings and rulers how they should behave.

But though these instructions were simple the Kings and rulers did not want to obey and so God was upset at them. What they were really doing was running away from God because they wanted to do pretty much what they wanted. They indulged in all kinds of evil pleasures because they had not been convicted of their sins. They were only interested in taking things from other people and building fancy houses, having beautiful and expensive furnishings and living in luxury even while the people were poor and suffering. Disobedience to God had taken over them.

The prophet Jeremiah therefore told the Kings and rulers and people that the issue was not really between them and the people in the nation, the children, the widows, and the strangers in the country but the issue was between them and God. It was the program of their heart.

They might try to run away from God but they would not succeed. Their vehicles would eventually run out of gas and they would be tired and get to the point where the things that they were doing would begin to leave a bad taste in their mouths. They would never be able to get rid of this bad taste in their mouth until they realized that God was good and was also loving and forgiving.

If they continued breaking the agreement that they had with God, God would turn against them and would allow people to come into the nation and destroy them. Worshiping other gods and not the true God would have bad consequences. They would find that when trouble came they would have nowhere to turn.

The prophet Jeremiah reminded them and he also reminds us that the First of the 10 Commandment God gave was that we should love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our might.

The Second of the 10 Commandment was that we should love our neighbour as we loved ourselves. We should not do anything that was wrong to them but should look after their interests just as how God looked after our interests and takes care of us.

We should therefore never be unjust or unfair to others. When we are put in a position of leadership and responsibility we should carry this out exactly as God had told us we should.



If we find that we are not doing the right thing we should repent, that is, we should make a complete turn away from what we are doing and begin to do what was right.

That would make God happy and He would bless us for it.

Remember though that repentance is not just saying you're sorry. It is more than that. Repentance comes from a heart that is changed. It is the kind of change that only God brings to His people.

So make a commitment today not to run away from God, but to draw close to Him. That is easy to do for all you have to do is to talk to Him honestly and ask Him to come alongside you and walk with you. He is longing to do that with all of us, both children and adults. He especially wants to do that with Kings and rulers. That way He will be able to give us all the blessings that He has promised us.

