

Today, we will begin our sixth lecture on Jeremiah. /Our lecture will begin with Jeremiah chapter 5. /The title of chapter 5 is “Honesty and Truth.”

/First, acting righteously in Jerusalem and searching for people who are seeking truth. /Verse 1-6. /Second, abandoning God and ignoring the words of the prophets. /Verses 7-19. /Third, sin prevents good things from happening. /Verses 20-25. /Fourth, the LORD disowns those who do not repent. /Verses 26-31.

/Read verse 1. / “Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, look around and consider, search through her squares. If you can find but one person who deals honestly and seeks the truth, I will forgive this city.”

/God commands the people of Judah to search the streets of Jerusalem. /If they find someone acting in honesty and seeking truth, God will forgive the city.

/Therefore, the number of people who were dealing honestly and seeking truth was very small. /If they could not find anyone who was honest and truth-seeking, God had no choice but to judge the city.

/Sodom and Gomorrah was destroyed because ten righteous people were not found within the city. /Genesis 19:32 /What is the definition of honesty? /“Honesty” means to be fair. / It means to act in accordance with the Bible in everything we do.

/Thus, we must repent and come before God, being honest to both God and to people. /We must be proper in our families, workplaces, and in church. /The next step is to seek truth. /Truth is the right thing.

/God’s Word reveals this. /Those seeking truth discover God’s will in their lives. /How should a believer seek truth? /First, he must seek divine truth that will save the soul.

/A believer must find truth that will give life to the soul. /John 6:53 /A believer must first eat spiritual bread, and then he will be able to save others. /What kind of truth do we have to seek next?

/Second, we need to discover God’s will in our lives. /God has given each of us a command. /We must obey his commands. /Jesus told Peter to throw the net into deep waters. /Luke 5:1-5

/He also told the rich, young man to sell his possessions and give them to the poor. /Matthew 19:21-22 /God commanded Moses to do things. /He also gave them to Elijah.

/Each individual must discover God’s command and will in their life. /What other truth must we seek after? /Thirdly, we must seek truth that will build up this generation. /For example, Paul’s generation had to abandon legalism.

/We are saved through faith in Jesus Christ. /Galatians 5:4-6 /John Calvin and Martin Luther from the Reformation period claimed that anyone who has faith can be saved. /The righteous will live by faith. /Romans 1:17

/Next, we look at the Japanese imperialistic era. /During the time period, the Japanese people emphasized paying respect at shrines. /At that time, they should have remembered the second commandment. /What truth should we uphold today?

/Today, we need to remember the fourth commandment, remembering the Sabbath. /In our world today, Sunday is the first day of the week, and we must remember the Sabbath. /Also, we must not follow the New Theology or mysticism.

/Furthermore, we must not follow secularism or the Liberation Theology. /We must not follow humanism or materialism.

/Verse 2. / “Although they say, ‘As surely as the LORD lives,’ still they are swearing falsely.”

/The people of Judah made false promises. /They made promises in the name of the LORD, but their actions betrayed their words. /Eventually, they were false promises. /They were only serving God in their minds.

/Verse 3. / “O LORD, do not your eyes look for truth? You struck them, but they felt no pain; you crushed them, but they refused correction. They made their faces harder than stone and refused to repent.”

/God is faithful. /He does not look after hypocrites or liars. /Hypocrites are punished, but they do not realize they are being punished.

/They do not repent even when they are about to meet their doom. /They do not return to God. /Isaiah 1:5-6

/Verse 4. / “I thought, “These are only the poor; they are foolish, for they do not know the way of the LORD, the requirements of their God.”

/The people of Judah thought themselves wise. /However, in God’s eyes, they were lowly creatures. /Knowing the truth of the LORD and obeying God’s laws are the signs of a true person of wisdom.

/We must live our lives according to the word of Scripture. /2 Timothy 3:5-6 /When we are dragged away by greed, we will never discover the truth no matter how hard we try. / Confusion will lead that person down a road of destruction. /Psalm 49:20

/Verse 5. / “So I will go to the leaders and speak to them; surely they know the way of the LORD, the requirements of their God.” But with one accord they too had broken off the yoke and torn off the bonds.”

/Noblemen and leaders said they knew the laws of God. /In reality, they had broken off the yoke of God. /They had torn off the bonds of God's word.

/Here, to "wear the yoke" means obeying God's commandments. /1 Samuel 15:25 /The people of Judah no longer wanted to be bonded with God. /They were choosing to go their own ways.

/The people did not want to be yoked with God and they abandoned the word of God. /Freedom is found in truth. /In verse 6, God says he will send lions and wolves to the people. /Lions and wolves symbolize their relentless enemies.

/It means that God will send a violent person like King Nebuchadnezzar. /If they break the yoke off the tree, they will be yoked to iron. 28:13

/Verse 7. / "Why should I forgive you? Your children have forsaken me and sworn by gods that are not gods. I supplied all their needs, yet they committed adultery and thronged to the houses of prostitutes.

/God showed the people of Judah many forms of grace. /He filled up them up food. /But the more God gave to them, the more they became self-indulgent.

/Rather, they strayed away from God. /Believers of today's church must not be led away by the world and its debauchery.

/Verse 10. / "Go through her vineyards and ravage them, but do not destroy them completely. Strip off her branches, for these people do not belong to the LORD."

/God commands the people to ravage the vineyards and strip the branches, but He does not want them destroyed completely. /He tells them to leave the stump of the root. /By this, God wants them to save the truth. /Here, the branches symbolize humanism and secularism.

/Verse 11. / "The house of Israel and the house of Judah have been utterly unfaithful to me," declares the LORD."

/The people of Israel believed they were serving God, but they were being unfaithful to Him. /God sent to them many prophets, but they ignored the words of the prophets. /Eventually, as the prophets prophesied, the people of Israel were punished.

/Verse 14. / "Therefore this is what the LORD God Almighty says: "Because the people have spoken these words, I will make my words in your mouth a fire and these people the wood it consumes."

/Because the people of Judah have sinned, the LORD says He will consume the people with the fire of his words. /God stayed true to His word and judged the people of Judah.

/Verse 15. / “O house of Israel,” declares the LORD, “I am bringing a distant nation against you—an ancient and enduring nation, a people whose language you do not know, whose speech you do not understand.”

/God says He will bring upon the Israel a distant nation, the Babylonians. /He says the people of Judah will not understand the language of the Babylonians.

/Verse 16. / “Their quivers are like an open grave; all of them are mighty warriors.”

/This means that Babylonia’s soldiers will kill many with the numerous arrows they are known to possess.

/Verse 18. / “Yet even in those days,” declares the LORD, “I will not destroy you completely.

/God will judge the people of Israel, but he will not destroy them completely. /God is a merciful God who shows his mercy in the midst of His anger.

/Verse 19. / “And when the people ask, ‘Why has the LORD our God done all this to us?’ you will tell them, ‘As you have forsaken me and served foreign gods in your own land, so now you will serve foreigners in a land not your own.’”

/The reason the people of Judah received this punishment was they served foreign gods.

/Verse 21. / “Hear this, you foolish and senseless people, who have eyes but do not see, who have ears but do not hear.”

/Their godly eyes and ears have become dull to see and hear.

/Verse 22. / “Should you not fear me?” declares the LORD. “Should not you tremble in my presence? I made the sand a boundary for the sea, an everlasting barrier it cannot cross. The waves may roll, but they cannot prevail; they may roar, but they cannot cross it.”

/With his words, God created the heavens and the earth, and he divided the sea from the sand. /He does not allow the sea to cross into the sand. /However, the people of Judah went against the word of God and betrayed Him.

/Verse 24. / “They do not say to themselves, ‘Let us fear the LORD our God, who gives autumn and springs rains in season, who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest.’”

/God gives us early and late rains. /However, the people of Judah did not give thanks to God nor did they fear Him. /They themselves rejected God’s blessings.

/Verse 26. / “Among my people are wicked men who lie in wait like men who snare birds and like those who set traps to catch men.”

/The people of Judah set up snares and traps and caused men to fall into them. /They deceived people and took away their possessions. /They were able to grow as a nation with the wealth gained by deceiving others. /God punished them for these actions.

/Verse 30. / “A horrible and shocking thing has happened in the land.”

/Prophets spoke false prophecies and the priests ruled with power. /And the people thought it was good, so they followed their leaders. /Prophets must speak the truth when they prophesy.

/We must also spread words of truth to others today. /We must properly deliver the message. /We as believers must enjoy listening to God’s message to us. /We must not follow lies, but must follow the truth.

/This concludes the lecture on chapter 5.

/Next, we will move on to Jeremiah chapter 6.

/The title of chapter 6 is “The Road of the Past.” /First, any city that is not disciplined by the LORD will face destruction. /Verses 1-8. /Second, God does not heal the wounds of his people. /Verses 9-15. /Third, God tells them to find the road of their past and walk along it. /Verses 16-19

/Fourth, God does not accept ritual offerings. /Verses 20-22. /Fifth, the invaders are brutal and the people of Judah face suffering. /Verses 23-26. /Sixth, God uses Jeremiah as a watchtower and fortress. /Verses 27-30.

/Verse 1. Please read. / “Flee for safety, people of Benjamin! Flee from Jerusalem! Sound the trumpet in Tekoa! Raise the signal over Beth Hakkerem! For disaster looms out of the north, even terrible destruction.”

/Benjamin’s descendants lived in Jerusalem. /Jerusalem is the land that was distributed to the tribe of Benjamin. /Tekoa is a city that lies 16 kilometers south of Jerusalem. /Beth Hakkerem lies about 3 kilometers in the south of Jerusalem. /The word tells us that the plague will spread from the North to the regions of the South.

/Verse 2. / “I will destroy the Daughter of Zion, so beautiful and delicate.”

/Zion here refers to Jerusalem. /In this verse, God is saying He will destroy Jerusalem.

/Verse 4. / “Prepare for battle against her! Arise, let us attack at noon! But, alas, the daylight is fading, and the shadows of evening grow long.”

/The region of Judah becomes too hot for war at noontime. /Even still, the verse tells the attackers to invade the land at noon and capture the people of Judah. /This means that enemies will attack without resting.

/Verse 6. / “This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Cut down the trees and build siege ramps against Jerusalem. This city must be punished; it is filled with oppression.”

/Jerusalem’s residents continued to sin. /They continued to be evil. /Thus, God sends enemies of Judah to invade and destroy Jerusalem.

/Verse 8. / “Take warning, O Jerusalem, or I will turn away from you and make your land desolate so no one can live in it.”

/If the people of Judah were not disciplined by God, they would receive his punishment. / We too must not be a stiff-necked people. /We must obey the word of God.

/Verse 9. / “This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Let them glean the remnant of Israel as thoroughly as a vine; pass your hand over the branches again, like one gathering grapes.”

/The Babylonian army came and picked the Israelites captive as they would pick grapes into a basket. /As they would pick grapes, the Babylonians picked the Israelites as prisoners.

/Verse 10. / “To whom can I speak and give warning? Who will listen to me? Their ears are closed so they cannot hear. The word of the LORD is offensive to them; they find no pleasure in it.”

/To be circumcised means to remove the body’s desires and become affiliated with God. / Jeremiah 4:4 /Here it says, “Their ears are closed so they cannot hear.” /Although the people heard the word of God, they were not learning.

/Their greed had shut the doors of their heart. /Acts 7:51 /2 Timothy 4:3 /The people of Judah were insulted by God’s word and were not pleased by it. /Therefore, God’s anger was against them.

/The people were ashamed of the word of God. /They did not enjoy the voice of God. /God, too, was ashamed of the people. /We must enjoy worshiping, praying, and reading the Bible.

/Verse 12. / “Their houses will be turned over to others, together with their fields and their wives, when I stretch out my hand against those who live in the land,” declares the LORD.”

/The lowest of people to the greatest of people of Judah acted in greed. /The prophets and high priests practiced evil.

/Therefore, Scripture warns that the people's houses, land, and wives will become the property of others. /When we act in greed, God judges us. /The prophets and high priests acted in greed and falsehood.

/Verse 14. / "They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. 'Peace, peace,' they say, when there is no peace."

/The prophets told lies and did not properly treat the wounds of the people. /They did not treat the root of the wounds of the people. /Even then, the prophets told them "It will be okay, it will be okay, peace, peace."

/Our Jesus is the neighbor of the man who was robbed. /Jesus was a good Samaritan. /The Levite and the priest ignored the man and walked right by. /The Good Samaritan treated the man who was robbed by the thief.

/We as God's servants must treat the wounds of other believers. /We must treat the wounds of the heart. /When believers move forward with sin, we must reproach them and lead them to repentance.

/When the people did wrong, the false prophets told them words that were pleasing to hear. /The false prophets said to them, "You will be blessed, it is okay. There is peace."

/If a sick patient needs surgery, the doctor puts the patient to sleep and performs surgery to heal the patient of his illness. /False doctors, when a patient needs surgery, offers medication and tells that patient that he will be all right.

/People who follow these false prophets will perish. /A similar message is told in 8:11. /It also appears in 23:17 and 28:9

/Verse 16. / "This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'"

/God tells us to walk the ancient paths. /What are the ancient paths? /The ancient paths are the paths of faith on which our ancestors of faith walked. /Moses's faith, Noah's faith, and Abraham's faith are examples of traditional good faith that the people ought to follow.

/Walking on the ancient paths means following God's word. /1 Timothy 1:18 /This is the righteous path, the path of the first love. /Jeremiah 2:2 /It means to abandon idols and following God. /This is the path of life that saves the soul.

/When we walk the ancient paths, there is life and blessing. /Today, we must approach God with all our hearts and walk the path of our first love. /We must worship God in spirit and in truth.

/The Bible must be our standard for living. /Times may change, but Jesus Christ will never change. /The word and truth will never change. /Hebrews 13:8 /The seeds of grain have not changed and will not change.

/We must not alter or trim the seeds before we plant them. They must be planted the way they are for them to have life. /Today, we see the emergence of new theological systems. /New theology, Neo-evangelicalism, Neo-orthodoxy, liberation theology, and Minjung Theology are examples of straying from the ancient path.

/These are not proper paths of faith. /We must not follow these new theologies. /We must continue the traditional faith that has been passed on by our ancestors.

/Verse 17. / “I appointed watchmen over you and said, ‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet!’ But you said, ‘We will not listen.’”

/God appointed watchmen and told the people to listen to the sound of the trumpet. /Here, the watchmen are true pastors. /The sound of the trumpet is the word of God. /Thus, it is the trumpet sound of the Gospel. /It is also a warning of the day of judgment.

/The LORD sent his prophets with the word of truth to teach his people. /However, the people did not listen. /God sent many nations to attack and plague his people.

/We must follow the footsteps of the leaders of faith who have gone before us. /Song of Songs 1:8 /Deuteronomy 32:7 /In Hebrews 11, we see our ancestors of faith.

/Apart from the real ones, there are false prophets. /Isaiah 56:10 /Matthew 24:48 /When we see these texts, the false prophets deceive the people. We need to walk the righteous, ancient paths. /We also need to follow the right pastors.

/Verse 20. / “What do I care about incense from Sheba or sweet calamus from a distant land? Your burnt offerings are not acceptable; your sacrifices do not please me.”

/Sheba lies 2,200 kilometers in the southern direction of Jerusalem. /It is a region in the Southeast part of Arabian Peninsula. The people of Judah imported incense and other such products from this faraway land. /Then, they would offer the incense to God.

/But God did not accept these offerings. /This is because the people had turned away from truth and were leaning towards ritualism.

/In verse 21, God says he will place obstacles in front of the people. /Because the people of Judah had sinned, God put obstacles to make them stumble.

/Verse 22. / “This is what the LORD says: “Look, an army is coming from the land of the north; a great nation is being stirred up from the ends of the earth.”



/To destroy the sinful people of Judah, God prepares the enemy, the army of the Babylonians. /The verse states that the Babylonian army will invade Judah from the north. /The Babylonians brutally kill the people of Judah and invade their land.

/The Babylonians came rushing in like an angry sea. /The people of Judah were frightened and became weak. /They experienced the pain of a woman giving birth to a child.

/Verse 26. / “O my people, put on sackcloth and roll in ashes; mourn with bitter wailing as for an only son, for suddenly the destroyer will come upon us.”

/God warned the people of Judah to repent of their sins. /He told them to put on sackcloth and roll in ashes. /He wanted them to repent. /When we are punished, we repent. /When we face hardships, we need to repent.

/Verse 27. / “I have made you a tester of metals and my people the ore, that you may observe and test their ways.”

/God appointed Jeremiah the tester of metals and a fortress. /The fortress refers to a fortified city. /Jeremiah 1:18

/God grants authority to his true servants. /By giving pastors power and authority, God helps them fulfill their duties.

/Verse 28. / “They are all hardened rebels, going about to slander. They are bronze and iron; they all act corruptly.”

/The people of Judah were full of rebellion, and their hearts had become as stiff as bronze and iron. /They rejected God’s word and did not accept it.

/Verses 29-30. / “The bellows blow fiercely to burn away the lead with fire, but the refining goes on in vain; the wicked are not purged out. They are called rejected silver, because the LORD has rejected them.”

/The people of Judah were rebellious and had become silver of bad quality. /They were no longer good silver. /This means the people were wrapped up in sin. /Thus the people of Judah were rebellious in their sin.

/Just like God rejects silver of bad quality, he rejected the people of Judah. /Learning from this, we must repent. /We must become pure. /We must not be rejected by God, but be his noble people.

/This concludes the sixth lecture on Jeremiah. /Thank you.