

Transformation Journal

October 4

Daily Devotions for the week of October 4, 2009

Monday: Review Sunday's notes. Jeremiah's commission is reminiscent of Moses' call (in Exodus 3). Last week we saw how God delivered and formed a people through Moses and entered a covenant with them. Jeremiah is one of the prophets (coming many centuries after Moses) who expose God's judgment upon a people who do not keep faithful to the covenant. In this week's readings the curtain falls on the first act of God's unfolding drama.

Scripture: Read Jeremiah 1:4-19

Observations _____

Name Personal Applications _____

Journal Questions

1. Do you see any similarities between Jeremiah's situation and ours today?
2. In verses 6 – 8 notice how God's support will supplement Jeremiah's inexperience. How is God calling you? How can you rely on God's support to enable you to fulfill that call given your inadequacies?

Prayer Focus

Pray that God will help you see through any excuses you might have or any inadequacies you may feel about being faithful to God's call. Pray for a special attentiveness to God today.

Tuesday: *In today's passage, Jeremiah the prophet, acts as a prosecuting lawyer representing God's court. He reviews the history of Israel in the light of the covenant commitment. He charges the people with a long history of ingratitude and unfaithfulness to the God who has graciously delivered them and brought them into a good land.*

Scripture: **Read Jeremiah 2:1-13**

Observations _____

Name Personal Applications _____

Journal Questions

1. What are some of the "broken cisterns" (2:13) in which people today have placed their trust.
2. Why do people prefer to live on their own terms? On whose terms do you prefer to live?

Prayer Focus

Pray that we as a church might have an attentiveness to God.

Wednesday: *Jeremiah's temple sermon (which Jesus later referred to – Mark 11:17) is a hard-hitting criticism of religion – that is, the kind of religion which is the tool of the status quo and the justification of accepted social values or priorities. The prophet warns worshipers against supposing that they are safe if they "go to church" while their society violates the human dignity of persons.*

Scripture: **Read Jeremiah 7:1-15**

Observations _____

Name Personal Applications _____

Journal Questions

1. Would Jeremiah have agreed with the policy of keeping social issues out of the pulpit?
2. Do you ever substitute belonging to the Christian religion for living a Christian life? What is the difference?

Prayer Focus

Pray for those whose human dignity is being threatened. Pray that we as the church might "stand with them."

Thursday: *Throughout the book of Jeremiah the people receive a kind of shock treatment concerning the disaster that is coming. But the purpose of all of this is that they may be brought to their senses, become more fully human in their relationships and find their true community in a new covenant with God.*

Scripture: Read Jeremiah 31:33-34

Observations _____

Name Personal Applications _____

Journal Questions

1. What is the significance of the new covenant spoken of in this passage?
2. Are you the type that needs to be awakened to your condition before you turn back to God, or do you immediately sense when you are drifting away?

Prayer Focus

Pray for individuals in our church that they might develop an intimacy with God.

Friday: *This Psalm is a lament over the holy city (Jerusalem). God allowed the Babylonians to destroy the city because the people had broken their covenant with God. It is difficult to sing the Lord's praise when you are an exile among foreigners.*

Scripture: Read Psalm 137:1-6

Observations _____

Name Personal Applications _____

Journal Questions

1. What is the purpose of a psalm of lament like this one?
2. What do you say to God when you are without hope?

Prayer Focus

Pray a very honest pray to God today based on the way you are feeling about your life or our world.

Saturday – Read over your notes for the week and see how you are doing with your personal applications.