

## Morality Matters

Jeremiah 5:20-31 Declare this in the house of Jacob and proclaim it in Judah, saying, 21 ‘Now hear this, O foolish and senseless people, who have eyes but do not see; who have ears but do not hear...

### 1. What’s the Problem?

Jeremiah 5:20 Declare this in the house of Jacob and proclaim it in Judah, saying, 21 ‘Now hear this, O foolish and senseless people, who have eyes but do not see; who have ears but do not hear.

- Jeremiah 5:1 Roam to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and look now and take note. And seek in her open squares, if you can find a man, if there is one who does justice, who seeks truth, then I will pardon her.
- Jeremiah 5:7 When I had fed them to the full, they committed adultery and trooped to the harlot’s house.
- **They did not fear the Lord.**
  - Jeremiah 5:22 ‘Do you not fear Me?’ declares the Lord. ‘Do you not tremble in My presence? For I have placed the sand as a boundary for the sea, an eternal decree, so it cannot cross over it. Though the waves toss, yet they cannot prevail; though they roar, yet they cannot cross over it.
  - Proverbs 28:14 “Blessed is the one who fears the Lord always, but whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity.”
  - Hebrews 12:28-29 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; 29 for our God is a consuming fire.

- **They were stubborn and rebellious.**

Jeremiah 5:23 But this people has a stubborn and rebellious heart; they have turned aside and departed.

Exodus 33:3 Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people and I might destroy you on the way.”

- **They were selfish and oppressed the poor.**

Jeremiah 5:26-28 ‘For wicked men are found among My people, they watch like fowlers lying in wait; they set a trap, they catch men. 27 ‘Like a cage full of birds, so their houses are full of deceit; therefore they have become great and rich. 28 ‘They are fat, they are sleek, they also excel in deeds of wickedness; they do not plead the cause, the cause of the orphan, that they may prosper; and they do not defend the rights of the poor.

Luke 4:18-19

- **They pursued wickedness and loved it.**

Jeremiah 5:30-31 An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land: 31 The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule on their *own* authority; and My people love it so! But what will you do at the end of it?

## 2. What's the solution?

- **Pursue righteousness and live God's way.**

Jeremiah 6:16 Thus says the Lord, "Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, Where the good way is, and walk in it; and you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk *in it*.'

- The "ancient paths" symbolize timeless truths & divine principles laid down by God.

- **Pray for God's mercy on our nation.**

Jeremiah 6:19 Hear, O earth: behold, I am bringing disaster on this people, the fruit of their plans, because they have not listened to My words, and as for My law, they have rejected it also.

Psalm 116:2 Because He has inclined His ear to me, therefore I shall call *upon Him* as long as I live.

Daniel 9:4-10, 17-19

- **Put people in office who do not embrace immorality.**

Deuteronomy 1:13 Choose some wise, understanding and respected men from each of your tribes, and I will set them over you."

Romans 13:4 Political leaders are "a minister of God to you for good."

Proverbs 14:34-35 Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to *any* people. 35 The king's favor is toward a servant who acts wisely, but his anger is toward him who acts shamefully.

- **Practice your faith so your light shines before the world.**

Matthew 5:13-16 You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty *again*? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.