**Jeremiah 10:17-25**

***“Living With Someone Else’s Choices”***

Introduction:

1. “It wasn’t her choice, it was his.”

2. You haven’t made bad choices...they have!

3. Are you living with someone else’s wrong choices?

4. That is the case in Jeremiah 10:17-25. Judah has made the wrong choices, but

 Jeremiah is living with the consequences.

Are you living with someone else’s wrong choices?

**I. THE CONSEQUENCES FROM SOMEONE ELSE’S WRONG CHOICES 10:17-18**

Judah served other gods..NOT JEREMIAH! Judah had walked away from the Word of

 God…NOT JEREMIAH! Judah sacrificed her children on the altar of foreign gods…NOT

 JEREMIAH!

 ***A. The Command 17a***

 *“Gather up your wares” “Pick up your bundles”*

1. The command is startling. *Suddenly there is the sheer drop from the pinnacle to*

 *the depths: from the thought of Israel as God’s own treasure to the pathetic sight of her as a refugee leaving the ruins for the road. Derek Kinder*

1. Jeremiah seems to be writing in the middle of a siege. Jerusalem was surrounded in 597 B.C.

***B. The Control 17b*** *you who dwell under siege NASV*

**1.** *You have lost control...BUT IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT!*

**2.** Each prisoner carried all his earthly possessions in a bundle carried on his head!

***C. The Chaos 18*** *Behold, I will sling out the inhabitants…I will distress them.*

Purpose: *That they may be found*

**1.** *Sling…*God is going to sling shot these people into captivity. It will shake you. It

 will confuse you. Life will seem out of control!

1. *Distress…*means, straits or shut-in. Life closes in…tighter and tighter...it’s notfor something you did. *SOMEONE ELSE DID IT!*

Are you living with someone else’s wrong choices?

**II. THE CRY FROM SOMEONE ELSE’S WRONG CHOICES 10:19-22**

In chapter 8 *since my people are crushed, I am crushed…*Jeremiah is living with the

 wrong choices of Judah. He suffered! **Three crushing afflictions**:

***A. Personal Suffering 19*** Physical health

 **1.** His own body was racked with illness and disease. *I am wounded. I am injured.*

 *I am sick.*

**2.** I know this speaks of Jerusalem, but was Jeremiah afflicted in the siege?

1. The life of faith is not always health and happiness. Jeremiah was afflicted with an incurable

 wound! Impure air…impure water…chemicals in our foods…are drugs making us sick?

1. All of us have or will have physical problems. Some live under the threat of illness that may

 occur any time while others have chronic infirmities.

 ***B. Private Suffering 20*** Home

 “*My tent is destroyed…all my chords are broken…my children (sons) are gone.*

 *I am homeless and there is no one to help me.”*

1. Jeremiah’s home was destroyed. This is either his actual home or Jerusalem.
2. Enemies have come and cut the ropes of his tent. His tent has collapsed on top of him.
3. I face home and family troubles all the time. They have marital disputes. They can’t talk without yelling. There is little love or communication.

 \*They are abandoned by their children. They’re gone. The children don’t serve Jesus Christ. Some have lost sons and daughters.

 \*Some are homeless. Some have mates who are not believers. They feel all alone.

 \*There is no one to help pitch a tent. Life can be pretty lonely through no fault of your own.

 ***C. Positional Suffering 21*** They were under unspiritual leaders. This can be in a nation

 Church. The people at the top are making wrong choices. *They sought not the Lord.*

 *Pastors* are *shepherds. Brutish* is ‘stupid.

1. The leaders were selfish, incompetent and immoral.
2. Jeremiah was serving God. He made right choices.
3. The decisions of Washington are affecting America: Pornography…Abortion…Homosexuality…Transgender…National Debt ($21 trillion).
4. Churches in America are run by marketing methods. They want to be relational, but they aren’t real. It’s all programmed. Jesus is not God. The Bible is not the Word of God. Jesus is not the only way to God. Jesus is not coming back. God didn’t create the heavens and earth.
5. Jeremiah (who did that which was right) was suffering along with Judah *(v. 22).*

Are you living with someone else’s wrong choices?

**III. THE CONSECRATION FROM SOMEONE ELSE’S WRONG CHOICES 10:23-25**

 ***A. Individualize 23***

 **1. Prayer** He goes to the Lord in prayer.

 \*He takes his personal, private and positional suffering to the throne of grace.

 \*Start on your knees. Admit your inadequacy. **He is able!**

 **2. Providence** The life I now live doesn’t belong to me...IT BELONGS TO GOD!

 \**”God, You can do anything to me that You want. It’s o.k.”*

 *\**He recognized that all sufferings were under God’s control. He either planned it

 or permitted it.

 \***Personal Suffering:** when you have an illness: *“I know O Lord that my life is*

 *my own, it’s not for me to direct my steps. I do ask that you heal me according to your*

 *will. In the meantime, I receive this illness as a gift from You and I ask You to*

 *use it to make me look a bit more like Jesus and use this for Your glory.”*

\***Private Suffering:** There may be things in your family that you cannot fix.

 Some families are so badly broken it’s hard to know where all the pieces are, let

 alone glue them together. Take the broken pieces to God in prayer. Start by asking God to forgive you for the wrongs you have done to family members. Go and ask forgiveness.

 You may have been sinned against. Ask God to heal you. Let that person go.

 They are under no obligation to pay you back. Forgive them!

 \***Positional Suffering:** Accept God’s providence for the country…your place of

 employment. With the church, let God be God. The Lord will have to right the wrongs.

 Make sure we are doing what God wants us to do. It’s His business.

 \*Your every step is directed by God!

 ***B. Internalize 24*** *“Correct me!”*

**1.** When you are in a fix that you can’t fix… *“God, do a work in me.”*

**2.** The wrong choice permits us to see ourselves, not the one doing the wrong.

 Realize your sin…your selfishness…your un-christlike spirit.

 ***C. Intentionalize 25***

 **1.** Take your hands off those doing the wrong.

 **2.** If there is any getting even...it’s God’s business, not yours!

 **3.** God must repay: Leave those people, plans, and pain in His hands. *You*

 *don’t know what they did to me.* Who are you hurting???

 It’s not yours or your job. It’s God job: *Vengeance is Mine, I will repay*

 *says the Lord.* Free them. They don’t ever have to pay you back. Most

 likely they can’t!

***Nothing touches me that has not passed through the hands of my heavenly Father.***

***NOTHING!***

***Everything I endure is designed to prepare me for serving others more effectively.***

***EVERYTHING****!*

**Jesus Christ gave us life and set us free.**

**Don’t get bogged down with an unforgiving spirit.**

**IT WILL ROB YOUR TODAY AND KILL YOUR TOMORROW**