**Jeremiah 25:15-38**

***“That Bitter Cup”***

Introduction:

1. We are taken from a basket of rotten figs and a basket of good figs. By God’s grace, that

 which is rotten can become good…new!

2. In this passage we are taken to a winery. God says to Jeremiah, *“Take from my hand this*

 *cup…*it is the bitter cup of judgment.

3. Jeremiah 25:25-38 God dispenses His wine: there are two wines into two cups. One is bitter,

 the other is sweet. See, smell, taste and choose.

4. From which cup will you drink?

**I. THE BITTER CUP RECEIVED Jer. 25:15-38**

 **Man’s Dilemma...*Condemnation***

***A. What Is Represented 15a, 16***

**1.** God offers a cup to his enemies. It’s a cup of divine judgment.

 **2.** The wine has been prepared for all the nations of the world. There is no exception

 for all who are guilty. All drink!!

 ***B. Who Are The Recipients 15-29***

**1. Jerusalem and Judah**

 **\***The first to drink the wine of God’s wrath were the kings of Judah with all of her

 officials…Jerusalem being her representative.

  **\***God did not over look sin among His chosen people. Judgment comes because

 of sin. Sin must be paid for.

 **2. Middle East 19-26**

 **\***Jeremiah passed the cup around the Middle Eastern world.

 \*He went as God’s ambassador. In 1:10 God appointed him over the nations:

 *To uproot, to tear down, to destroy and overthrow*.

 \*Jeremiah was set over the nations to serve them with divine judgment.

 \* 26b Jeremiah saved the big surprise for last: *After all of them, the king of*

 *Sheshach will drink it too. Sheshach* is the code word for Babylon, the mightiest

 Empire of Jeremiah’s day.

 \*No person, no nation could escape the wrath to come!

 **3. The Whole World 30-32**

 **\***The bitter cup of God’s wrath has been prepared for every sinner who does not

 repent. Every sinner who rejects God’s Son will face the wrath of God.

 \*Divine judgment is not merely for Jeremiah’s day, but for all the nations of the

 earth (30-32).

 \*When the Old Testament speaks of God’s worldwide wrath, it is often described

 as a cup prepared for sinners. (Ps. 75:8; Is. 51:17; Lam. 4:21)

 \*A cup of strong wine is one biblical symbol for divine judgment. A cup of wrath

 is stored away for every sinner who does not repent. This is a present threat to

 everyone who has not received Jesus Christ as his or her Savior.

 ***C. What Is Required 17,27,28***

**1.** *“You must drink it!”*

**2.** Can it be refused? NO…*you must drink it!*

**3.** *Take from my hand this cup* is not an invitation, but a command. This is the ***must***

 drink of God’s judgment!!

***D. What Are The Results 33-38***

**1.** Jeremiah describes judgment in such vivid detail that it almost becomes a picture of

 final judgment. (33-38)

**2.** *Rev. 14:10-11* There is an eternal drinking of the cup filled with the wine of God’s

 wrath, and that cup is bitter. Would you choose this cup? What person would dare

 drink of the bitter cup of God’s wrath???

From which cup will you drink?

**II. THE BITTER CUP REMOVED Is. 51:22; Mt. 26:39-42**

**Man’s Deliverer...*Crucifixion***

***A. The Cup Reviewed Is. 51:22*** *Thou shalt no more drink it again.*

**1.** In the middle of a drunken stupor the Sovereign Lord snatches the cup of wrath

 right out of the hands of his people.

 **2.** The bitter cup is no longer in the hands of His people. *Thou shalt no more drink it*

 *again.* God will remove the chastisement.

 **3.** The Old Testament prophets longed to understand these things. How would God

 take away the bitter cup? How could a holy, just and righteous God forgive His

 people of all their sins? God’s perfect, spotless Lamb was sent in the form of a baby...

 The Messiah…God came in the flesh! In the Gospel we see how God has taken the

 cup of wrath from the sinner and placed it in the hand of His Son.

 ***B. The Cup Rejected Mt. 26:39***

**1.** *My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. If it is possible let this*

 *Cup pass from Me.*

**2.** At first, Jesus shrank back from the awful cup. Anyone who has smelled the bitter

 aroma of the cup in Jeremiah can understand.

 **3.** Jesus was overwhelmed with sorrow because He knew the terror of God’s wrath.

 He knew how bitter the cup would be. He knew it was the cup of death, of suffering

 and of the cross.

 **4.** He did not want to drink the cup of wrath. If you want proof of the reality of

 divine judgment, here it is. If you want proof of the sinfulness of sin, here it is!

 ***C. The Cup Received Mt. 26:42***

*If it is not possible, Thy will be done.*

1. The Son knew the ‘will of the Father’. He knew the Father was saying, *“Take from My hand this cup.”*
2. He knew there was no other way to save His people from the bitter cup, except to drink it. *“Not My will, but Thine be done.”*
3. The bitter cup ***must*** be consumed. God’s anger against sin must be satisfied. His righteousness cannot tolerate sin!
4. Christ came to take our sins upon Himself. He came to suffer the punishment for our sins. He came to drink the cup of God’s wrath that we deserved. Jesus took the cup. He drank the bitter wine of God’s wrath…**every drop!**
5. Every step of the crucifixion is a reminder:Thorns, Stripes, Nails*,* Hanging on the Cross, Spear in His side…the cry…***“It Is Finished!”* PAID IN FULL! *The Cup was empty!!!***

From which cup will you drink?

**III. THE BITTER CUP REMEMBERED Mt. 26:27-29**

 **Man’s Delight...*Communion***

There is one cup left.

1. ***The New Cup*** is the cup of salvation from sin. It is the cup of victory!
2. ***The Cup of Remembrance…***in communion we are reminded with the Bread (His body was broken for us.) The Cup and wine…New Testament given in my blood. ***Jesus took my cup and gave me His!*** How sweet the wine: Forgiveness…Peace…Hope…Joy…Life. It is the cup that represents Jesus’ own blood that was spilled on Calvary when He drank the cup of God’s wrath. Forgiveness became mine when Christ completely drained God’s cup of wrath. He did drink it. God’s wrath has been swallowed by Christ.

*From which cup will you drink?*

***Come, drink from His cup, taste...HOW SWEET IT IS!!!***