**Jeremiah 7:29-8:3**

***“When We Serve The Wrong God”***

Introduction:

1. *“Choose ye this day whom ye will serve...as for me and my house we will serve the Lord”*

2. As a family you are going to worship and serve something. Families are made to worship

 together.

3. This is why it is absolutely necessary to worship God in your home.

4. Who do you worship? Which god do you serve? What if you worship and serve the wrong

 God?

5. That was the problem in Jeremiah 7:29-8:3.

Who do you worship? What if you choose to worship and serve the wrong god?

**I. THE PRICE OF THE WRONG GOD 7:29-31**

 ***A. Separation* *29***

**1.** God isn’t pleased...the fellowship with God is broken.

 **2**. Shaving of the head was a sign of mourning and separation. This was an outward

 sign of humility and brokenness.

 **3**. High places was their place of false worship...**it should break our hearts!!!**

*God hath rejected and forsaken.* The blessing of God isn’t evident. Brokenness

 before God is needed.

 ***B. Sacrilege 30***

What’s so wrong?! *They have set their abominations in my house…which is called by*

 *My name, and have polluted it.*

1. If one God was good, then two would be better and three better yet! Trusting in

God plus any other god is not trusting God at all. To start adding to the Gospel is

 not to improve it but destroy it.

**2**. The sinful things of worship had taken over His place.

 **3**. *Detestable thing…defiled…*We bring detestable things of worship into our homes.

 **4**. We defile the place where God should be.

 **5**. Worshiping other gods doesn’t enhance worship...**it makes true worship**

 **impossible.**

 ***C. Sacrifice 31***

Children are always the victims. *They burned their sons and daughters in the fire.*

1. Topheth means, ‘fireplace’ or ‘oven.’ Topheth was the place where the children

of Judah took their sons and daughters and cast them into the flames.

1. Child sacrifices were practiced in the cultures around Judah…Cyprus, Sardinia,

 Sicily, Tyre, Carthage apparently sacrificed to Baal.

1. Down in the valley of Hinnom…*I commanded them not…neither came it into my*

*heart.* To understand the passage: these people thought they were doing what God wanted them to do. They carried out child sacrifice as misguided piety and devotion to God. They thought this is what God wanted.

 \*False gods are always harsh taskmasters.

 \*Not everything done in God’s name is pleasing to Him. Not everything done out

 of zeal for God is acceptable to Him.

 \*The people of Judah loved themselves more than they loved their children.

 \*This is an extreme example. It shows what happens when people try to worship

 God in ways that Scripture does not teach.

1. Worshiping and serving the wrong god is what led to abortion-on-demand.

Jeremiah teaches that sacrifices of children is a spiritual problem: It seems so barbaric to kill children for their own gain. The high priests of the abortion industry tell young women that their physical comfort, their emotional stability, their career plans are all more important than the life of the unborn child. Abortion is essentially a religious activity. This makes sense to the pro-choice movement. The pro-choice movement

 believes that pro-lifers are immoral, even wicked. Why? It is because pro-choice is a

 religious belief and people always have a sense of moral outrage when you attack their

 religious beliefs. For abortion advocates, an abortion is an act of piety...it is a ritual

 sacrifice to the gods of feminism, materialism and pleasure.

 **5**. Children are being left behind as we adults serve our other gods. Who do you worship?

 What if you choose to worship and serve the wrong god?

**II. THE PAIN OF THE WRONG GOD 7:32-34**

 ***A. It Is A Place Of Death 32***

**1.** The Valley of Hinnom…Topheth…*but the Valley of Slaughter.*

**2.** *They shall bury in Topheth…til there is not place*.

\*Their sanctuary will become a cemetery.

 \*They have chosen death over life. God will give them what they have chosen.

 \*A battle or catastrophe will fill the valley with the dead. Hope will die. Promise

 will die. The joy of living will die. Aspirations die. You have chosen death. Everything

 good and precious dies, even your god shrivels up!

 ***B. It Is A Place Of Dishonor 33***

**1.** It was a dishonor to not be buried. There was no more room left to perform a

 descent burial.

1. The dead were vulture bait in the Valley of Slaughter. Disgrace and dishonor

follows their wrong gods. Do you think the USA can abort 60 million babies and not pay?

 ***C. It Is A Place Of Dejection 34***

**1.** There is a lot of hollow laughter. Joy and natural mirth is gone.

 **2.** *Marriage…Bridegroom…Bride* We see the death of marriage.

 *\**What happens in a society when parents violate their sacred trust to nurture their

 children? *I will bring an end to the sounds of joy. The land shall be desolate.*

\*A society without a strong home will crumble. Same sex marriage is another

 sign of the weakness of a nation. Cracks are visibly seen in the foundation!! Who do you

 worship? What if you choose to worship and serve the wrong god?

**III. THE PERFORMANCE OF THE WRONG GOD 8:1-3**

 ***A. The Desecration Of Leaders 1***

**1.** *They shall bring out the bones: kings, princes, priests, prophets…*these were the

 prominent citizens of Jerusalem…*out of the graves.*

 **2.** This was a shameful act, but invaders would desecrate their graves. This was a shameful

 act and the ultimate insult. The people of Judah were incapable of guarding the remains

 of the dead. Perhaps they were after buried treasure.

**3.** Where are their gods now?

 ***B. The Disgrace Of Their Lords 2***

**1.** *Bones will be scattered in open air.*

**2.** All stages of Judah’s idol worship is mentioned: *loved… served… followed…*

 *consulted… worshiped*

 **3.** The heavenly bodies they worshiped are helpless…*sun, moon, all the host…*

 **\***One day your gods will be powerless to help you.

 \*When you are gone...then where will your gods be? How can they help? What

 can they do?

 ***C. The Drive Of The Lifeless 3***

**1.** Death is chosen rather than life. What choices are you making?

 Can you say as Joshua: *As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!*

**2.** Judah was driven out by God. Driven by passion…Driven by possessions…

 Driven by purpose.

 *\**What drives you and where are you going?

 \***The wrong god will take you somewhere, but it may not be where you want**

 **to go!**

***“As for me and my house we will serve the Lord”***