

SERMON

DATE: Saturday - Sunday, September 14-15, 2019

SERIES: *Faithful*

SERMON TITLE: How We Get Worship Wrong

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 7:1-15

Jeremiah 7:1-15

[1] This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

[2] “Stand at the gate of the LORD’s house and there proclaim this message: “‘Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship the LORD.

[3] This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place.

[4] Do not trust in deceptive words and say, “This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD!”

[5] If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly,

[6] if you do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm,

[7] then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your ancestors for ever and ever.

[8] But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless.

[9] “‘Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known,

[10] and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name, and say, “We are safe”—safe to do all these detestable things?

[11] Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching! declares the LORD.

[12] “‘Go now to the place in Shiloh where I first made a dwelling for my Name, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of my people Israel.

[13] While you were doing all these things, declares the LORD, I spoke to you again and again, but you did not listen; I called you, but you did not answer.

[14] Therefore, what I did to Shiloh I will now do to the house that bears my Name, the temple you trust in, the place I gave to you and your ancestors.

[15] I will thrust you from my presence, just as I did all your fellow Israelites, the people of Ephraim.’

Sept 14-15, 2019

Series: *Faithful*

Title: How We Get Worship Wrong

1. We emphasize the wrong areas.

- We make worship a legalistic requirement or a superstitious act.

2. We seek to use God instead of God using us.

3. We disregard the God of our worship.

- We don't repent.
- We don't hear the Word of the Lord.

4. We leave the place of worship with unchanged lives.

Lagniappe

Why Churches Do Well

I am fascinated with churches. I always have been.

One of the things I often ask is, "Why do churches do well?" Over the years I have preached sermons (based on Scripture, of course) with titles such as "Why Good Things Happen at Church."

Why do churches do well?

Let me give three very general reasons.

First, God blesses in ways which are larger than any understanding. Anytime we begin to talk about something good taking place, we must go directly to God. We are not the cause; God works and blesses in ways that are beyond our comprehension. We are forced, with the Apostle Paul, to praise the Lord. *"Now to Him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations" (Ephesians 3: 20-21).*

God is a good God who works on our behalf.

Second, people seek God and humble themselves before Him. God loves humility. James quoted the Old Testament and reminded us that *"God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6)*. When we submit ourselves to God and seek to know Him in Scripture and in prayer, He blesses and encourages.

Third, God's people work with God to proclaim Christ and make Him known. I often say, "Most any plan will work if you work the plan."

When we seek to witness, invite, teach, live the Word, and obey Christ, God will take our feeble efforts and use them for His glory.

Let us be people who seek God and live to please Him. That usually makes church a place of joy and significance.