

SERMON

DATE: Saturday - Sunday, September 7-8, 2019

SERIES: *Faithful*

SERMON TITLE: How Did We Get Where We Are?

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 2:1-13

Jeremiah 2:1-13

[1] The word of the LORD came to me:

[2] “Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem: “This is what the LORD says: ““I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me through the wilderness, through a land not sown.

[3] Israel was holy to the LORD, the firstfruits of his harvest; all who devoured her were held guilty, and disaster overtook them,”” declares the LORD.

[4] Hear the word of the LORD, you descendants of Jacob, all you clans of Israel.

[5] This is what the LORD says: “What fault did your ancestors find in me, that they strayed so far from me? They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves.

[6] They did not ask, ‘Where is the LORD, who brought us up out of Egypt and led us through the barren wilderness, through a land of deserts and ravines, a land of drought and utter darkness, a land where no one travels and no one lives?’

[7] I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. But you came and defiled my land and made my inheritance detestable.

[8] The priests did not ask, ‘Where is the LORD?’ Those who deal with the law did not know me; the leaders rebelled against me. The prophets prophesied by Baal, following worthless idols.

[9] “Therefore I bring charges against you again,” declares the LORD. “And I will bring charges against your children’s children.

[10] Cross over to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and observe closely; see if there has ever been anything like this:

[11] Has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols.

[12] Be appalled at this, you heavens, and shudder with great horror,” declares the LORD.

[13] “My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

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Title: How Did We Get Where We Are?

What makes us wander from God?

1. We live at peace with the world - and at war with God.

- You always become like what you worship.
- You always behave according to how you believe.

2. We ignore the blessings of God.

- *Psalm 103:2 Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits.*

3. Leaders forget God and live for self.

4. Finally, we turn to things that can never satisfy.

Lagniappe

Our third **congregational meeting** for the year 2019 will be held this weekend - **Sunday, September 8 at 6:00 pm** in Central Hall.

Our congregational meetings are important times for us. Our by-laws and our church culture calls for transparency in our meetings. For this reason, and because we are congregationally governed, I hope you will join us for this meeting.

In addition to a lot of information about the church, you will be asked to approve a recommendation from the Finance Ministry Team.

The Finance team recommends we accept a gift from a family in the church of a chapel to be built on the three acres bordered by Bricker Rd, Murphy Rd, and Tyler Street (Highway 21). If accepted and approved, construction will begin as soon as possible, maybe as early as October 1, and will be completed in about a year.

In addition, you will hear plans by the Finance team concerning our building loan. They are in negotiations to extend the length of our loan and possibly to lower rates as well. This does not require congregational approval, but we do need you to know the plans. We will also have other small items which you need to approve.

In every congregational meeting I discuss our vision and opportunities of future ministry to our community and our world.

I look forward to seeing you this Sunday evening.