

SERMON

DATE: Saturday - Sunday, October 12-13, 2019

SERIES: *Faithful*

SERMON TITLE: Things We Need to Remember

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 19:1-8, 10-11, 14-15

Jeremiah 19:1-8, 10-11, 14-15

[1] This is what the LORD says: “Go and buy a clay jar from a potter. Take along some of the elders of the people and of the priests

[2] and go out to the Valley of Ben Hinnom, near the entrance of the Potsherd Gate. There proclaim the words I tell you,

[3] and say, ‘Hear the word of the LORD, you kings of Judah and people of Jerusalem. This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Listen! I am going to bring a disaster on this place that will make the ears of everyone who hears of it tingle.

[4] For they have forsaken me and made this a place of foreign gods; they have burned incense in it to gods that neither they nor their ancestors nor the kings of Judah ever knew, and they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent.

[5] They have built the high places of Baal to burn their children in the fire as offerings to Baal—something I did not command or mention, nor did it enter my mind.

[6] So beware, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when people will no longer call this place Topheth or the Valley of Ben Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter.

[7] ““In this place I will ruin the plans of Judah and Jerusalem. I will make them fall by the sword before their enemies, at the hands of those who want to kill them, and I will give their carcasses as food to the birds and the wild animals.

[8] I will devastate this city and make it an object of horror and scorn; all who pass by will be appalled and will scoff because of all its wounds.

[10] “Then break the jar while those who go with you are watching,

[11] and say to them, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I will smash this nation and this city just as this potter’s jar is smashed and cannot be repaired. They will bury the dead in Topheth until there is no more room.

[14] Jeremiah then returned from Topheth, where the LORD had sent him to prophesy, and stood in the court of the LORD’s temple and said to all the people,

[15] “This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: ‘Listen! I am going to bring on this city and all the villages around it every disaster I pronounced against them, because they were stiff-necked and would not listen to my words.’”

October 12-13, 2019

Series: *Faithful*

Title: Things We Need to Remember

1. To whom much is given, much is required.

2. The Lord is Creator and Sustainer. He alone is to be worshiped and adored.

3. The Lord is Protector of the poor, weak, and helpless.

- *Micah 6:8* He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

4. The Lord is the God of justice and righteousness.

- *Isaiah 1:15* When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening. Your hands are full of blood!
- *Amos 5:24* But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

Lagniappe

"The local church is the only organization I know that will provide all that it offers, for free, for anyone, for as long as they want"--Dan Reiland.

The more I read that quote Thursday morning, the more significant it became for me.

The church really is what Dan Reiland said. It really is the only organization I know that provides all it has for free to anyone for as long as they want it.

Part of my job is making sure we have what we need to give to as many people as we can for free.

Think of what the church provides.

Anyone can worship with us on the weekend, or Wednesday night without cost. We receive an offering, but we don't require one. We don't even know who gives or how much.

Anyone can participate in Grief Share, Wednesday morning Ladies Bible Study, Vacation Bible School, the church playgrounds, for free. If you worship with us, you get childcare for free. We even have free coffee and cookies.

The more I thought of Dan Reiland's quote, the more significant it became.

How does the church do this? Not because we have an inexhaustible supply or because our denomination supplies it. Not because it comes down from heaven.

It happens because some people--many people--don't think about **receiving**. Instead, they think about **giving**. They are the catalyst which allows the church to offer for free, for anyone, for as long as they want it what the church has to give.

Therefore, today I want to thank you for being a cheerful giver. You make possible the gift of the Gospel to a community, a nation, and our world for free to all who will receive.