

Today:

April 13, 2014

Scripture Focus: Isaiah 56; Jeremiah 7; Matthew 21

“And as for the outsiders who now follow me, working for me, loving my name, and wanting to be my servants—All who keep Sabbath and don’t defile it, holding fast to my covenant—I’ll bring them to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. They’ll be welcome to worship the same as the ‘insiders,’ to bring burnt offerings and sacrifices to my altar. Oh yes, my house of worship will be known as a house of prayer for all people.”

“Get smart! Your leaders are handing you a pack of lies, and you’re swallowing them! Use your heads! Do you think you can rob and murder, have sex with the neighborhood wives, tell lies nonstop, worship the local gods, and buy every novel religious commodity on the market—and then march into this Temple, set apart for my worship, and say, “We’re safe!” thinking that the place itself gives you a license to go on with all this outrageous sacrilege? A cave full of criminals! Do you think you can turn this Temple, set apart for my worship, into something like that? Well, think again. I’ve got eyes in my head. I can see what’s going on.” God’s Decree!

Jesus went straight to the Temple and threw out everyone who had set up shop, buying and selling. He kicked over the tables of loan sharks and the stalls of dove merchants. He quoted this text:

My house was designated a house of prayer; You have made it a hangout for thieves.

Now there was room for the blind and crippled to get in. They came to Jesus and he healed them. When the religious leaders saw the outrageous things he was doing, and heard all the children running and shouting through the Temple, “Hosanna to David’s Son!” they were up in arms and took him to task. “Do you hear what these children are saying?” Jesus said, “Yes, I hear them. And haven’t you read in God’s Word, ‘From the mouths of children and babies I’ll furnish a place of praise’?”

(Isaiah 56:6-7; Jeremiah 7:8-11; Matthew 21:12-16 Message)

Notes from Worship:

(What caught your attention? What do you want to reflect on more this week?)

Notes from Formation Station:

(Discussion, Bible Study, Bible Memory, Praying the Scriptures)

Family Discussion Questions:

- How can we embrace God’s vision to be a house of prayer for all nations?
- In what ways do you retreat for safety like robbers retreat to their den?
- How does Jesus change the status quo? How can we follow Jesus’ example today?

This Week: **April 14-19**

Scripture Readings:

Monday 4/14	Tuesday 4/15	Wednesday 4/16	Thursday 4/17	Friday 4/18	Saturday 4/19
Jeremiah 17-20	Jeremiah 21-24	Jeremiah 25-28	Jeremiah 29-32	Jeremiah 33-37	Jeremiah 38-40; Psalms 74, 79

Questions for Reflection:

These questions are meant to help get you thinking about the readings for each day. Feel free to also use this space to jot down other questions and insights gleaned from your reading.

Monday

- What is significant about the images of a potter and a clay jar (Jeremiah 18-19)?

Tuesday

- God promises to raise up a righteous branch (Jeremiah 23:5)? What does this mean? Why is it important?

Wednesday

- Why would the people be in exile for seventy years (Jeremiah 25)? What is significant about the number seventy?

Thursday

- What parts of these chapters do you find especially hopeful? Why?
- How does Jesus fulfill God's promise to make a new covenant (Jeremiah 31:31)?

Friday

- What new things did you learn in these chapters?

Saturday

- How do these Psalms fit with the story and message of Jeremiah?

Scripture Memory:

As we focus on the prophetic voice, our key memory verse is still ***Micah 6:6-8***. In only a few verses, this passage summarizes the heart of what many of the prophets teach to God's people during the time of the kings. That being said, there are many other powerful passages throughout the prophetic literature. Consider choosing other passages in addition to the one from Micah 6 that you could memorize.

Key verses to memorize in Jeremiah include 9:23-24; 29:4-14; 31:31-34.

Next Sunday: April 20

Theme: *Easter Sunday (Hope Resurrected)*

Scripture Focus: *Jeremiah 29-33; Matthew 28* (Jeremiah 31:27-40; Matthew 28:1-10)