

Jeremiah 16:1-9 – Take No Wife from the Wicked

HebrewLexicon, TSK, Gaebelein, Handfuls, Armstrong, Trapp, Geneva, Poole, Henry, Delitzsch, JFB, Clarke, Barnes, Calvin, INT

Beloved in the Lord: Jeremiah described **God's judgment that was coming on Judah and God's hope the Jews would come to their senses, repent, and be restored to him.** God's language was clear – very clear – through his prophet.

But sometimes, in order to make it even clearer how Judah had become evil and needed to repent, God used illustrations. You will see one such illustration today. Judah had become so evil, **God commanded Jeremiah to stay away from them in every possible way!**

Our headings are:

Don't marry any woman from Judah

Don't even go into their houses to mourn their dead

Don't even go into their houses to celebrate good times

Our goals are: That you will **learn to stay away from people marked for death, but work together with those who love the Lord to advance his kingdom.**

Don't Marry any woman from Judah

1 The word of the LORD also came to me, saying, 2 "**You shall not take a wife,** nor shall you **have sons or daughters in this place.**"

1. God's Word to Jeremiah was clear: Don't marry anyone from sinful Judah and don't have any children here!

This was a striking command. Men were expected to be married. Marriage is the normal state. (Genesis 1:28, 2:18) Sometimes marriage is **essential to certain duties,** as being an elder. **Non-marriage was the exception.** This seemed harsh!

Jeremiah had people trying to kill him so he had to hide, and now God was telling him he couldn't even get married.

3 For thus says the LORD concerning the **sons and daughters** who are born in this place, and concerning their mothers who bore them and their fathers who begot them in this land: 4 "They shall die **gruesome deaths;** **they shall not be lamented nor shall they be buried,** but they shall be **like refuse on the face of the earth.** They shall **be consumed by the sword and by famine,** and their **corpses shall be meat for the birds** of heaven and for the beasts of the earth."

2. Why did God tell Jeremiah not to marry?

God told Jeremiah not to marry or have children in Judah because the Jews were too wicked.

More, **God told Jeremiah not to marry or have children born in Judah because they would die gruesome deaths – boys and girls. And there were other terrible things coming on their nation.** There would be **no sympathy for girls**, as is common in most cultures.

This was God’s sentence on a wicked nation and wanted Jeremiah to have none of it!

God wasn’t saying, as some theorize, Jeremiah shouldn’t get married *because he would die* and leave his children as orphans (as in 1Corinthians). This was not about protecting children from suffering!

God wasn’t saying Jeremiah’s children would die and he would hurt. This wasn’t protecting Jeremiah from sadness!

God was simply saying, these people were so bad (and have been sentenced to death), so he had to avoid them.

Look at what would happen to these wicked ones!

3. The parents and children would not only die from the Babylonian captivity, but they would have no one to mourn for them.

4. The parents and children would have no one to bury them, so their bodies would be like dung – sewage - on the land.

Those who were created in the image of Almighty God would have their bodies left strewn about in the fields.

5. The parents and children would be killed by sword and famine.

Everyone knows the pain of watching sick children and not being able to help! Imagine watching them starve to death.

6. The parents and children would be eaten by birds and scavenging animals.

7. Lessons:

a. It is better to be single than to marry bad. Many have made this mistake and thought that marriage is most important and so they compromised and married a wrong person. Their live regretful lives. **So take the hard life and do not sin!**

b. God doesn't care if your wife is brown, blue, black...or if she lived a bad life in the past! God wants you to marry one who loves him more than she loves you!

c. It is better to be alone than to have bad friends, friends who don't encourage you in the faith. Those friends may seem to be having a good time, but their end is coming suddenly. Don't get caught up in bad company.

d. Consider how far the church can fall and has fallen today! Many churches look like sewage in God's eyes. God can't be pleased with her.

e. Celibacy is not a better state than marriage. Priests are not better than pastors. Marriage is the normal state.

Don't even go into their houses to mourn their dead

5 For thus says the LORD: "**Do not enter the house of mourning, nor go to lament or bemoan them;** for **I have taken away My peace from this people,**" says the LORD, "**lovingkindness and mercies.**

1. Jeremiah had to mourn over the carnage that would soon take place in Judah, but he was not to go in their homes and join with those who would lament and mourn the passing of their loved ones.

It was extraordinary God did not want him to mourn! So why did God require this?

2. Jeremiah was not allowed to mourn with the Jews because God had taken away his peace from them and Jeremiah was not to give God's peace to those wicked people who had no feelings toward God.

Job 34:29 When He gives quietness, who then can make trouble? **And when He hides His face, who then can see Him,** Whether it is against a nation or a man alone? —

Lovingkindness and mercies were gone, which meant **special gifts and protection from punishment were gone.**

6 "Both **the great and the small shall die** in this land. They **shall not be buried; neither shall men lament** for them, **cut themselves,** nor make themselves **bald for them.**

3. People from the greatest (most important) to the smallest (least important) would die.

a. Nobody would care even if someone important died; he would be left on the ground like everyone else.

Nobody would care even if a friend or relative died; a most deplorable position to be in.

No parent would care if a child died.

No husband would care if his wife died.

Their bodies would be left to rot and be eaten in the field and the streets. This did happen!

b. Nobody would lament for them, as was done in good cultures.

c. Nobody would cut themselves as part of their pagan religious ceremonies, or shave their heads for them, as was sinfully being done by the Jews who adopted some of these pagan cultures.

Pagans would shave the front part of their heads as part of their worship. God explicitly condemned such things, so their pagan ways they held dearly would be gone.

Leviticus 19:28 'You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor tattoo any marks on you...

7 "**Nor shall men break bread in mourning for them, to comfort them for the dead; nor shall men give them the cup of consolation to drink** for their father or their mother.

4. Judah would not have anyone to eat with in their funeral houses (as was their custom), to comfort them for their loved ones passing, and they would not be drinking to stir up joys and numb the pain of mourning.

Ezekiel 24:17 "Sigh in silence, **make no mourning for the dead**; bind your turban on your head, and put your sandals on your feet; do not cover your lips, **and do not eat man's bread of sorrow.**"

It was a custom to send bread and wine to the family of one who was mourning, especially if a father or mother died.

Proverbs 31:6 Give strong drink to him who is perishing, And **wine to those who are bitter of heart.** 7 Let him **drink and forget his poverty,** And remember his misery no more.

God did not even want Jeremiah to mourn for the dead...they were so evil.

5. Lessons:

a. Avoid pagan ceremonies. God hates them. It is putting another god before God's

face. Don't join them in worship. **But don't avoid the people who need to hear the gospel.** Only avoid their practices.

b. Avoid even Christians who live corrupt lives. Don't make them think their sinful ways are okay.

c. God will cause his people to become restless and be without peace if they turn their backs on him.

d. The way you live your life will help prove to the world what you believe! If you act like everything is okay and God is pleased with a worldly life, that's the message the world would get. If you live a godly life, cry out against sin, and call people to repentance, people will know all is not well with the world. Maybe then they will look to Christ.

Don't even go into their houses to celebrate their good times

8 "Also you shall not go into the house of feasting to sit with them, to eat and drink."

1. Jeremiah was also told he was not even to go into the Jewish houses to celebrate their good times.

Eating and drinking on special occasions (even not so special occasions) are common to every culture in the world, but these people were so bad, God did not want Jeremiah to celebrate good times with them.

9 For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Behold, **I will cause to cease** from this place, before your eyes and in your days, the **voice of mirth and the voice of gladness**, the voice of the **bridegroom and the voice of the bride.**

2. Jeremiah was warned not to mix with these wicked people because God was going to take away even the joys they had!

This was what God had said to the northern 10 ½ tribes before Assyria came in 722BC.

Amos 6:6 Who drink wine from bowls, And anoint yourselves with the best ointments, But are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.

The joys they were losing included the joys of a bride and groom getting married! They **wouldn't be able to celebrate a child being born** because marriage would be a thing of the past.

3. Lessons:

a. There is nothing wrong in going to a good funeral or to a house of feasting.

Jesus and his disciples did and even drank wine there (John 2). This limitation was because of the present situation. So take God's words to Jeremiah as descriptive, not prescriptive - not a prescription of how you are to live.

b. If you play in mud, you will get dirt on your clothes. Don't mess up your clothes of righteousness. It might look like fun to live wickedly, but guard yourself against your friends who lure you into cheating on exams, committing adultery, get involved in drugs and alcohol, and even stealing...just for fun!

c. What sorrow came upon the children of Abraham, and what sorrow will come on the church if she does not change her ways and return to God's favor!

Canada is starting to look like Judah looked before the captivity. Canada needs repentance.

Conclusion:

God warned Jeremiah **not to take a wife from among the wicked people** because they were so wicked and he was going to destroy them. He even warned Jeremiah **not to go to their house to comfort them or to their celebrations to rejoice with them.** God had taken away their comforts and joys!

Beloved in the Lord Jesus:

1. A specific warning: Don't marry non-believers, as nice as they may be. It is a serious sin. They will not help your Christian cause.

A general warning: Don't be close with those who are bent on evil and have abandoned worshipping God.

Watch for those who lure you in things that have no saving value or sanctifying value. Even if those things are not evil of themselves, (spending too much time texting, working, but working too much) if they draw you away from doing what is good, they become evil!

2. Instead of letting the wicked draw you away from God, work to bring them in to God's house so they will join you and worship the one true God. Work together with other brothers and sisters to do this...join Pastor Brian or Brother Joshua. Use your Facebook to link to our livestream. It is repentance or hell. Save them.

Finally: If you are not a Christian, know **life apart from God is death**...a guilt-ridden physical death and a guilt-ridden eternal death. The only way to avoid both is to ask God for forgiveness, a forgiveness that did not come for free, but was purchased because Jesus took the punishment for sinners!