

Morning Worship

February 23, 2020

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ ---

Worship Leader — Romey Keith Davis

Piano — Alva Lou Schottel

As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship		Allan/People
Scripture Reading		Romey Keith Davis
Hymn # 337	<i>I Know Whom I Have Believed</i>	Romey/People
Worship Prayer		Allan Lane
Hymn # 273	<i>Freely, Freely</i>	Romey/People
Hymn # 557	<i>People Need the Lord</i>	Romey/People
Hymn # 223	<i>Alleluia</i>	
Offering Prayer		Bill Schottel
Tithes and Offerings		People
Offering Music		Alva Lou Schottel
Hymn # 541	<i>Why Do I Sing About Jesus</i>	Romey/People
Special Music		
Message		Allan Lane
Hymn # 151	<i>The Way of the Cross Leads Home</i>	Romey/People
Prayer Concerns		Allan/People
Hymn # 579	<i>Shine, Jesus Shine</i>	Romey/People

Jeremiah: The Temple Sermon

Jeremiah 7:1-20

Jeremiah leaves the square and now goes to the sanctuary. After the untimely death of good King Josiah, his son, an unproven leader named Jehoiakim had come to the throne. It was an unsettling time. People were worried, weeping and wondering. They were searching for security. There were concerns militarily, politically and religiously. With all of that as a backdrop let's seek to find a message for today.

1. The Proclamation .

In order to understand the sermon one must grasp the scene. Note 7:1. Here is a message from the Lord through the prophet to those gathering for worship. Large crowds were entering the sacred precincts. It's as if Jeremiah is standing in the foyer preaching to the masses. Like a prosecuting attorney he hurls several accusations their way. Let's look at the charges God brought against these people.

a. The Misplaced Trust. (7:2, 4, 8, 14).

The leaders were gathering together their sermon notes. The pews were being filled. The choir was rehearsing and sounded in perfect harmony. The ushers were busy escorting people. The sound technicians were testing the acoustics. The lighting people were busy making sure the stage was proper. Yet! Yet! Yet! Something was tragically wrong. Observe that three times reference is made to "the temple of the Lord." The implication here is that they thought they were safe. Their faith was in the Temple.

Here's the problem. They had chosen a place over a person. They chose a pattern over a presence. In today's vernacular we might describe it like this. "My name is on the church roll." "I show up - sometimes." "I give a little to the church." But the issue is that ones' life has not been transformed. These people had divorced their morality, ethics and conduct from their religion. The same holds true today. People spend Saturday night at the honkytonk or the casino and then show up Sunday morning as if everything is fine. Why do people go to church or participate in worship services when it doesn't make any difference in how they live each day?

It's also important to know that worship is reserved only for God. The truth is we all worship something and this is why one of the Ten Commandments tells us to worship God alone -- because it is essential in our relationship with the Lord.

b. The Misguided Theology. (7:9-11)

Jeremiah mentions specifically six of the Ten Commandments. Obviously, they felt no shame about breaking God's moral laws and then showing up for worship. For the words "den of robbers" remember Jesus' words in Matthew 21:13. Research this section and you will find that because of their misguided theology they had no regard for the law (7:28). They had no regard to loyalty (7:16-19, 24-25).

Immorality was rampant. They had no regard for life (7:30-34). The most hideous and deplorable practice of idolatry was child sacrifice. Today's parallel would be called abortion. You may argue abortion socially or politically but you cannot argue it theologically. A child is a gift of God to be treasured and not a fetus to be trashed.

c. The Misleading Teachers. (6:13; 7:4, 8; 8:5, 7-8, 10: 9:14)

Focus on 10:21. Remember when Dorothy and Toto landed in Munchkin Land (The Wizard of Oz). In order to find her way back to Kansas she had to follow the yellow brick road to the Emerald City to find the Great Oz. Along the way she meets the Scarecrow. When he asked Dorothy where the Oz and the city was she expressed surprise that he did not know. Remember his reply, "I don't know anything. You see I am stuffed. I have no brains at all." Look back at Jeremiah 10:5. The teachers of Jeremiahs day were like scarecrows. They acted like they had no brains.

2. The Frustration .

A study of Jeremiah reveals that he was as human as any modern day preacher. The prophet's frustration manifests itself in three ways.

a. His Questions .

Note the questions mentioned in v.5, v.14, v.19, v.22. These people refused to admit they had fallen. They had no desire to return. They had become so hardened that prayer for them was useless. What was their problem? It can easily and clearly be traced. Look at 8:9 then go back to 8:8 then to 8:6. They reject the true word, became wise in their own eyes and then pursued their own course.

b. His Quest . (9:1-2)

Jeremiah wanted to escape. He was like many preachers on Monday morning. He was a lonely, desolate place.

c. His Quote . (8:20)

The crops have failed. The enemy is coming and God has deserted them. Jeremiah was crushed. He is experiencing intense suffering.

3. The Exhortation .

Once again Jeremiah exhorts the people. Note three things.

a. Reform . (7:3)

This is a call for transformation. The meaning implies repentance. It is a command, a requirement for an authentic response. God is under no obligation to let the corrupt continue to live in the land.

b. Remedy . (7:23; 9:23-24)

Look at the results of trusting God.

c. Revenge . (10:23-25)

Jeremiah pleads with God to deal in justice – not in anger. He calls for corrective judgment not punitive judgment. He pleads with God to punish the nations who do not acknowledge Him. Always remember that God is in total control. Don't try to set His agenda for Him. Vengeance belongs to Him – not us.

Conclusion:

The temple sermon back then is the temple sermon we need today. In His book, "Experience God in Worship," Christian Author George Barna says that... "Most Americans go to church to satisfy or please themselves, not to honor or please God." Amazingly, few of the people that Barna's research team interviewed said that worship is something that they do primarily for God. Instead a much larger percentage of those who attend worship services on a regular basis claim that they do so for personal benefit and pleasure. This is something that has got to change. We must forget about ourselves and concentrate on Him! He must be the primary focus of our worship.

William Temple writes "Worship is the nourishment of the mind upon God's truth. Worship is the quickening of the conscience by God's holiness. Worship is the cleansing of the imagination by God's beauty. Worship is the response of my life to God's plan for my life."

How's your worship! Anything less than total surrender to Christ is not all it could be. When it comes to our priorities in worship, do you need an adjustment?

We Need A Temple Sermon Today!

Good Grief?

Grief is our natural reaction to loss. It is highly personal and no two people grieve in exactly the same way. A pastor, when he was going through grief after the loss of a church member sent out an email to some of his contacts and asked this question, "How would you describe grief?" The answers he received prove the variety of reactions we have to tragedy and trouble. See if any of these sound like your experience.

"Even though I know God is with me, it's a feeling of helplessness, feeling empty inside, despair, and loneliness."

"...grief is like crawling through broken glass."

"...sadness so overwhelming that no one or anything else matters."

"...grief was like a bubble that swallowed me up-inside, my whole world was at a complete stop..."

"...broken, confused about everything...a deep pain in your soul."

"Grief is the tumbling of every emotion you can imagine - overwhelming you all at once. Grief is the quiet after the storm, when your adrenaline ceases and you want to fall apart, because you survived the storm."

It's important to understand that, although we usually associate grief in terms of coping with death, grief is much broader than that. If we define grief as a natural human reaction to

loss, then it is normal to grieve quite often. We all experience loss, small and big, and must deal with the resulting emotions.

People are surprised to think they are grieving when nobody died. But grieving is not always about physical death. We grieve when:

- * Divorce steals our dreams of a happy marriage.
- * The loss of a job can cause grief reactions.
- * Moving can cause grief, particularly if one feels uprooted from their support system.
- * The loss of a pet can be devastating, even to adults.
- * Dealing with middle age.
- * The disintegration of an important friendship can cause grief.
- * Watching your children make choices that you know will hurt them can cause grief.
- * Being an eyewitness to a tragic event.

Jeremiah the Prophet experienced grief when he looked out over the ruins of his beloved Jerusalem. He had proclaimed judgement for years and it finally happened. In the book of Lamentations, perhaps the saddest book in the Bible, we read of his sorrow through a series of five poetic dirges, or laments.

Are you grieving a loss in your life? Trust the Lord. Give it all to Him. Let His healing power soothe your broken heart and mend the sorrow. Read the book of Lamentations along with our study of Jeremiah. Perhaps it will remind you that God cares. It was one year ago today that we lost Don Beavers. While there have been other losses along the way, there's none quite like Don. Even so, God is faithful!

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan ☺

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, February 23, 2020

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, Dillon Burgess, Gary Yarbrough, Don Sharp

Alternate: Ken Nice

Lunch / Bible Study Noon

NO Evening Worship

Wednesday, February 26

NO Prayer and Bible Study

Bro. Allan will be in St. Louis

Sunday, March 1, 2020

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Larry McKahan, George Burgess, Ken Nice

Alternate: Don Sharp

Wednesday, March 4

Prayer and Bible Study... 6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events

February 23 — January Bible Study @ Noon

February 29 — Enjoy the extra day this month

March 2 — Food Kitchen 5:30 pm

March 8 — Daylight Saving Time Begins

**(Please spring forward 1 hour the night of
March 8.)**

March 11 — Prayer Warriors

March 15 — Luncheon and Business Meeting

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** Everyone make a contact! Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

Sunday Night

We will not have Sunday Night service tonight. Today we continue January Bible Study. Plan to stay after the morning worship service for lunch and Bible Study.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

We are enjoying our study entitled “The New Testament You Never Knew.” It’s not too late to join. Won’t you please attend and pray for the direction of our church?

January Bible Study

This year our study is on the Old Testament book of Jeremiah. We’ll continue our study today, February 23, with the same schedule as in the past: Light lunch at noon—Study to follow.

Food Kitchen

Monday, March 2 5:30 pm

**Daylight Saving Time
Sunday,
March 8**

Please remember to spring forward one hour the night of Saturday, March 7.

*Prayer Warriors
10:00 am
March 11, 2020*

Thank You
*Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
Isaiah 40:31*

My Dear Church,

Thank you so much for the Gideon Bibles in honor of my mother. There were 80 donated altogether.

She loved her home church very much.

Love,
Randy and Gina Harr
Isaiah 55:10-11

For the Record

Attendance: February 16, 2020

Sunday School.....	29
Visitors.....	1
Total.....	30
Contacts Made.....	0
Morning Worship.....	62
Sunday Night	7
Children's Worship	9
Wednesday Night	6

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 1,507.50
Long Family – February	\$ 120.00

Offering Received by Mail:

Nellie Reynolds
Jim and Brigida Winans

March Counting Team:

Bill Schottel and Mike Green

March Van Driver:

Joe Coats

Remember to call 232-3747 **before 8 am** if you need a ride.

March Member Birthdays:

01...Ken Nice
05...Sharon Yarbrough
13...Tim Ford
16... Don Sharp
16... Aleana Lane
27... Jim Winans

March Anniversaries

Fred and Linda Kerns
March 14, 1969

Prayer Requests ...

The family of Betty Campbell
John Lewis—cancer treatment
Nancy Baker— Bro. Allan's sister
Jack Conard, Jr. – stroke recovery
Stanley Wilson and family
Nellie Reynolds
Jim and Brigida Winans-Jim is home
Susie Long—Alice Coat's Sister
Gary Hurst—cancer
The family of Carl Conard
The family of Bob Coats
Mike Green—strength and recovery
Jack and Flo Conard
Sharon Russell—George's sister
June Fritchle
Swymeller's Grandsons—kidneys
Linda Huff—PTL! Cancer free!
Romey Keith Davis—Music
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings
Arlette Duty—strength
Karissa and Matt Long and family
Chuck and Gloria Stewart
Stephanie & Jason Terpack—guidance
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
Doris Richardson Elmer Mayse
Kevin Duty Tim Izer
Bill Dunn Shirley Wilson
Ann Riddle Kenny Duty
Keon McKahan Buddy Means
Jozy Winans Curtis Conard
Pat Means Seth Long
Bill & Juanita Brenda Burgess

Pat Puckett Sharri Duty
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service Women and Men
Terrorism in our world

Today's Prayer Requests ...

Five More New Families...
