

Our Mission:

*To share Christ with the world
and grow disciples for Jesus*



Loving God and Loving Neighbor as Ourselves

Background:

The people of Judah trusted that a divine covenant had been sealed with God protecting the city and the monarchy from destruction. Jeremiah's message was seen as subversive against the state as well as being an inaccurate understanding of God's special relationship with the nation. In other words, people did not want to hear of God's displeasure, and they turned a deaf ear to his messenger.

Theology Connection:

Lutheran Christians attempt to hold the LAW and GOSPEL in tension. It is not one or the other, but both tugging at our hearts. Luther would say that the first use of the law is to corral our sinful thoughts. The second is to convict us of our foolish ways and drive us into the arms of God's grace. Like the ancient Israelites we would like to believe that by saying, 'we believe' we would thereby fall under God's divine protection. Yet God despised their religious piety that failed to address the rampant corruption at work in the land.

Application:

The prophets pointed out the systemic sin that betrayed an honest relationship with God. Their hope was that the people would turn away from the lies we tell ourselves and trust instead in God. Have we, the people of God, been telling ourselves lies that we might need to repent of in order to reclaim the mission of Christ? What would a prophet of God need to say to us today?

The Text: Jeremiah 18: 1-11

¹This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ²"Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." ³So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. ⁴But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so, the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.

⁵Then the word of the Lord came to me. ⁶He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the Lord. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. ⁷If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, ⁸and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. ⁹And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, ¹⁰and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.

¹¹"Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, 'This is what the Lord says: Look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So, turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.'

ADULT

We often think of the prophets as messengers of doom and gloom. Yet the prophet's message was one of restoration. God wanted the people to turn away from that which was destructive in their life and turn toward Jesus the source of life. Do we know anyone who might need such a message today?

YOUTH

Please read Jeremiah 18:1-11

Have you heard this story before? It is so true and so relatable. Think of clay... there is so many things you can make with clay. So many shapes, so many useful things you can make from it. Now pictures us as the clay. God is shaping and using us just like the clay. We are being molded and guided by our creator.

Do you sometimes wonder, what am I supposed to be doing right now?

I think it is normal to feel at a standstill or unsure what you are supposed to be doing and that is ok. I challenge you take this time to speak to God, ask questions but also listen to god. Maybe you won't get your answer right away or maybe the answer you get isn't the one you wanted but trust in God. He has a plan for you, and you are right where you are supposed to be.

Let us pray,

Dear God, please use us and guide us for the purpose of the greater good. We are you clay. Help us be your light to others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN'S

In our scripture today, Jeremiah shares an important lesson he learned from God in a unique way. God told Jeremiah to go to the house of a man in his village who made pottery. Once he got there, God would reveal an important message to Jeremiah. So, Jeremiah went to the potter's house. When he got there, Jeremiah watched as the potter took some clay and began making a pot. But as the potter worked, Jeremiah noticed that the pot was not forming the way the potter wanted it to be shaped, so the potter changed the shape of the pot. When the shape of the pot changed, the potter was then pleased with his creation because the potter liked the new form of the pot better than the older form. Then God said to Jeremiah, "I wanted you to see the potter remake the pot into a different form. You, Jeremiah, and all the people of Israel are like the clay in the potter's hand, for you are in my hands. I will form you and make you as I want you to be. Trust me and let me create you as I want you to be."

1. What did you learn from this story?
2. What is your favorite part of the story?

Pray:

Dear God,

Thank You for loving us enough to mold us and make us the way You want us to be. Please forgive us for the times that we choose not to listen to You and help us become the people that You want us to be!

Amen!