



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Jeremiah; Lamentations Sermon Series
Supports Session 3: Personal
Sermon Title: "A False Sense of Security"
Passage: Jeremiah 7:1-15

Connection to Session 3

Worship that is not lived out in our daily lives is not pleasing to God. He desires genuine worship that is backed up with godly living.

Introduction/Opening

To share the gospel effectively requires helping lost people realize that everything is not okay between them and the Lord. I often ask, "Let's imagine the worst thing in the world were to happen to you today, and your heart quit beating, and you stood before the Lord tonight. Let's imagine He asked you, 'Why should I let you into My heaven?' what do you think you'd tell Him?" I have noticed that four times out of ten the lost person will supply with hesitation a works or virtue related answer: "I treat my neighbors right" or "I am good and kind." Four times out of ten the lost person will answer, "I don't know what I would say" with a little distress in their voices. I then ask the lost person if I may share what Scripture says they can say to God. If I can share the entire gospel message, the person will usually call on Christ for salvation. Roughly two times out of ten the person will give a biblically defined answer. It is usually simple, but biblical.

How would you answer this question? Security, true security, with the Lord is the most important thing in the world. We must make certain it is not false. Judah had a false sense of security with the Lord. In Jeremiah 7:1-15, the Lord commanded Jeremiah to call out this false sense of security so that the people would turn from their unfaithfulness to a life of righteous living.

Outline

1. He Redirects Them (Jer. 7:1-8).

- a. Jeremiah declared this message at the gate of the house of the Lord (v. 2). This provided him with a very large audience.
- b. Jeremiah called the worshipers to repent, "Correct your ways and your actions" (v. 3). Their behavior needed to change. God, through Jeremiah, ordered Judah to refuse to trust deceitful words (v. 4).
- c. Next, the Lord redirected Judah's actions (vv. 3, 5-6). The Lord expected a faith in Him that produced righteousness towards others—acts justly toward others; does not oppress

resident aliens, or the fatherless, or the widow; does not shed innocent blood; and stops following false gods.

- d. Finally, the Lord promised He would allow them to stay in the land. If they returned to Him, they would live securely in His land.
- e. When we cooperate with the Lord's redirection, we repent. To repent means to change our mind about something important and personal. It results in a change of behavior and priorities.

2. He Questions Them (Jer. 7:9-11).

- a. The Lord questioned Judah's worship. He penetrated their false sense of security with a pointed question: "Do you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and follow other gods that you have not known?" (v. 9). The people were committing a number of sins, including the worship of other gods.
- b. The Lord questioned their thinking: "Then do you come and stand before me in this house that bears my name and say, 'We are rescued, so we can continue doing all these detestable acts?'" (v. 10).
- c. Judah had a false sense of security when she should have had no sense of security. The people thought coming to the temple to worship was enough to guarantee God's favor, regardless of their sinfulness away from the temple. It was hypocrisy. They falsely believed they could break God's commands without consequence as long as they came to the temple for worship.
- d. Finally, the Lord questioned their status: "Has this house, which bears my name, become a den of robbers in your view? Yes, I too have seen it" (v. 11). Bands of robbers prepared dens out of the caves near Jerusalem and hid there after robberies. The people of Judah attempted to hide in the temple after their sins, too, but the Lord saw them and called them out for it.

3. He Reminds Them (Jer. 7:12-15)

- a. The Lord reminded Judah of her painful history. About half a century before, the Lord allowed Israel's Shiloh to be destroyed, the first permanent place of worship (1 Sam. 4). He would allow something similar again. The Lord reminded the people of their current reality. They stood before the Lord as a warned people; He had spoken to them often through the prophets.
- b. The Lord always warns before He judges, so judgment should not surprise anyone. The Lord told them that they would be judged. He would banish them from His presence if they continued in their sinful habits.
- c. The Lord judges justly. No one can accuse Him of having no cause for judgment. No one can accuse Him of surprising anyone with judgment.

Conclusion

A false sense of security is religious in its presentation, tenacious in its grip, dangerous to its host, and urgent to eliminate. To call upon the Lord in worship but live a different life outside of worship is hypocrisy. It is a false security. We should examine our hearts. Paul wrote, "Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith" (2 Cor. 13:5). If we examine ourselves and seek true security in Christ, the Lord makes

promises to us. He promises that “entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided” for us (2 Pet. 1:11).

***David Mills** is an itinerant Bible teacher based in Athens, Georgia. He has pastored churches, taught evangelism at Southwestern Seminary, and served on the evangelism staff of the Georgia Baptist Convention. He has earned degrees from East Texas Baptist University, Southwestern Seminary, and Southeastern Seminary. He and his wife Sherri Michelle have four children.*

All Scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible, Copyright 2020 by Holman Bible Publishers.