

A Warning Message From The Lord

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: “Stand at the gate of the Lord’s house and there proclaim this message: ‘Hear the word of the Lord, all you people who come through these gates to worship the Lord.’ This is what the Lord Almighty says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place. Do not trust in deceptive words and say, ‘This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord!’ If you really change your ways and actions and deal with each other justly, if you do not oppress the alien, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in the place, and if you do not follow other Gods at your own harm, then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave to your forefathers forever and ever. But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless. Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other Gods you have not known, and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name and say, ‘We are safe’-safe to do all these detestable things? Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching! Declares the Lord.” (Jeremiah7:1-11)

Thanks for coming to church! Do you feel safe? You have the joy? But, bear this in mind: Going to church alone will not guarantee your salvation. **“Do not trust in deceptive words and say, ‘This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord!’** Three times God repeated the phrase, and certainly God wanted to emphasize that He really meant what He said. He spoke these words to His chosen people through the prophet Jeremiah as a warning message, and as a good opportunity for them to repent and to change their ways of living in order for them to receive the promise of God.

REFORM YOUR WAYS AND YOUR ACTIONS

- 1. Do not live a life of sin:** In the above passage the Lord revealed to us some sins like:
- a) Murder (to shed innocent blood)** You understand that to murder somebody is a sin that requires punishment. But, how do you consider these words of Jesus: **“You have heard that it was said to the people long time ago, ‘Do not murder,’ ‘and anyone who murders will be subject to judgement.’ ‘But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgement.”** (Matthew5:21-22 a) Are you also a murderer?
 - b. Stealing:** This is sometimes not so easily identified. To rob a bank is clearly stealing. But, someone may say to you, **“If you need something you can get from your brother, neighbor, from your company or workplace even without prior permission.”** **This is deception!** Whatever attempt or anything you do to by pass any rule, and do it illegally to avoid paying, it is considered as stealing.
 - c. Perjury:** You know that to sign a bank checks that is not your own is a kind of perjury. But don’t you know that if you falsely swear or you don’t fulfill what you

promise under oath is the real perjury? The Lord Jesus said, **“Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes’, and your, ‘No’, ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one,”**

d. Adultery: It is not only that when you pay for bed entertainment, but every extramarital man to woman affair is considered as adultery. The world tells you that you have the freedom to choose and the right to be happy. *But, again these are deceptive words.* Satan is deceiving you. Since Jesus said, **“You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully had already committed adultery with her in his heart.”** (Matthew5:27-28)

2. Deal with each other justly: Treat each other in such a way to bring justice and satisfaction for all. In this regard the passages mentioned three categories:

a. The alien: Those who are foreigners to you and to the place where you are living. They are feeble and weak because they are apart from their families and away from their countries.

b. The fatherless: They are the orphans and are known about their weakness and needs because they have no one to support them.

c. The widow: They are those who lose their husbands and left alone without support to take away their fear, responsibility and burden of life.

So in brief, these are three weak groups in the society who are liable to be oppressed by the people around them. So, **“We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves,”** (Romans15:1)

3. Do not follow other gods: **“Do you not see what they are doing in the towns and in the streets? The children gather wood, the fathers light the fire, and the women knead the dough and makes cakes of bread for the Queen of Heaven. They pour out drink offering to other Gods and provoke me to anger.”** (Jeremiah7:17-18) These people in addition to their worship to God, they also worship idols! Is God, the Creator of heaven and earth not enough to them? “It seems that God cannot do certain things, so they prefer to ask their gods!” The Bible here spoke about the Queen of Heaven, and the passage presented it in a sad way; that all the family members including children share to prepare a cake of bread for her. Are you doing the same? Is Jesus not enough for you? Are you worshipping the queen of heaven and presenting to her your offerings? It is an embarrassing question but you will be answering it privately between you and the Lord Jesus.

My Dear and Beloved: You may say, **“We are safe, this is the temple of the Lord!”** But, are you really sure, you are safe? Safe to do all these detestable things? **“I have been watching, declares the Lord.”** **You need to reform your ways and your actions.** As the Holy Spirit convicts you about your sins, pray this prayer from your heart:

My Prayer: Father God, I come to you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I repent from the following sins _____ . Forgive me Lord my sins, search me Lord and cleanse me. Teach me, keep me in Your ways, and give me Eternal Life. Amen!