

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
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www.magnoliambc.org

Theme Unit: Judah, from Isaiah to the Exile

Unit II: Jeremiah and the Promise of Renewal

Subject: The Heart Wants What the Heart Wants.

Printed Text: Jeremiah 31: 29-34; John 1: 17

Key verse: After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their GOD, and they shall be my people (Jeremiah 31: 33b, KJV).

Lesson Pointers:

- 1) Breaking Generational Cycles (Jeremiah 31: 29-30)
- 2) The New Covenant's Internal Transformation (Jeremiah 31: 31-33)
- 3) Grace and Truth through Jesus Christ (Jeremiah 31: 34; John 1: 17)

Introduction:

Now as the black American community we understand deeply the very weight of generational experiences; blessing and burdens that were passed down through families. Most of the black American communities have heard their elders speak about "paying for the sin of those who came before," as they were referring to the systemic injustices or the families struggles that had been echoed through generation. Our black ancestors fought for freedom and justice, they bear the burdens that was not of their own making, and often felt as though they were harvesting bitter fruits from trees that they did not plant. Jeremiah prophecy about generational accountability and GOD'S promise of a New Covenant; spoke of GOD'S transformative power to break cycles, reshape lives and destinies, and to bring about hope and redemption. Today's lesson shows GOD'S promise to move from external law to internal transformation, and from inherited burden to personal responsibility, and from limited access to an intimate relationship with GOD who is Divine.

Lesson Pointer # 1

- **Breaking Generational Cycles (Jeremiah 31: 29-30)**

In order to break generational cycles there must be a change in attitude. "In those days they shall say no more, The fathers have eaten a sour grape, and the children's teeth are set on edge (Jeremiah 31: 29)." Jeremiah challenged this type of belief, and encouraged personal responsibility and accountability. To break generational cycles we must change our attitudes. Jeremiah taught that every individual will be held accountable for their own actions, shifting towards personal choice, is a new reality. But every one shall die for his own iniquity: every man that eateth the sour grape, his teeth shall be set on edge (Jeremiah 31: 30). Breaking Generational Cycles can only be broken by excepting Jesus Christ as your LORD and Savior, and by developing a real relationship with HIM (Jesus Christ), by doing this your attitude begins to change, and you become a new creature old things have passed away, behold, all things are become new (Read 2 Corinthians 5: 17-18).

The Heart Wants What the Heart Wants!

Lesson Pointer # 2

- **The New Covenant's Internal Transformation (Jeremiah 31: 31-33)**

A change in Covenant; why is it needed? In Jeremiah chapter 31 GOD revealed HIS purpose to establish a new covenant that is fundamentally different from the one made at Mount Sinai.

Jeremiah said, thus said the LORD, "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah (Jeremiah 31: 31):" it shall not be like the covenant that was made with their fathers; Jeremiah said, thus said the LORD, "Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD (Jeremiah 31: 32):" Now how is it different (the LORD'S covenant)? Jeremiah said, thus said the LORD, "But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their GOD, and they shall be my people (Jeremiah 31: 33)."

The Heart Wants What the Heart Wants!

Lesson Pointer # 3

- **Grace and Truth through Jesus Christ (Jeremiah 31: 34; John 1: 17)**

In Jeremiah chapter 31 and verse 34 speaks of the action from the heart; that everyone from the least to the greatest will come to know the LORD personally. Jeremiah said, thus said the LORD, "And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more (Jeremiah 31: 34)." Now in the gospel of John a change in mediator takes place, "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ (John 1: 17)." So in the gospel of John, this prophetic vision finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ, who shows a striking contrast: while Moses gave the law; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ; who is our Mediator between GOD and us, and not Moses.

The Heart Wants What the Heart Wants!

Nuggets of the Lesson:

- 1) A change in attitude is needed in order to break generational Cycles.
- 2) The LORD shall put HIS law in our inward parts, and write HIS law in our hearts, and GOD shall be our GOD, and we HIS people.
- 3) From the actions of our hearts; everyone from the least to the greatest will come to know the LORD personally.
- 4) Through Moses the law was given.
- 5) But grace and truth came through Jesus Christ; who is our Mediator between GOD and us.