Sunday, May 17, 2020

Lesson Text: Jeremiah 21:8-14

King James Version (KJV)

I. THE LORD’S MESSAGE TO HIS PEOPLE (Jeremiah 21:8-10)

8. And unto this people thou shalt say, Thus saith the Lord; Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death.

9. He that abideth in this city shall die by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence: but he that goeth out, and falleth to the Chaldeans that besiege you, he shall live, and his life shall be unto him for a prey.

10. For I have set my face against this city for evil, and not for good, saith the Lord: it shall be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire.

II. THE LORD’S MESSAGE TO THE KING’S HOUSE (Jeremiah 21:11-14)

11. And touching the house of the king of Judah, say, Hear ye the word of the Lord;

12. O house of David, thus saith the Lord; Execute judgment
in the morning, and deliver him that is spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor, lest my fury go out like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings.

13. Behold, I am against thee, O inhabitant of the valley, and rock of the plain, saith the Lord; which say, Who shall come down against us? or who shall enter into our habitations?

14. But I will punish you according to the fruit of your doings, saith the Lord: and I will kindle a fire in the forest thereof, and it shall devour all things round about it.

New International Version (NIV)

I. THE LORD’S MESSAGE TO HIS PEOPLE (Jeremiah 21:8-10)

8. “Furthermore, tell the people, ‘This is what the Lord says: See, I am setting before you the way of life and the way of death.

9. Whoever stays in this city will die by the sword, famine or plague. But whoever goes out and surrenders to the Babylonians who are besieging you will live; they will escape with their lives.

10. I have determined to do this city harm and not good, declares the Lord. It will be given into the hands of the king
II. THE LORD’S MESSAGE TO THE KING’S HOUSE (Jeremiah 21:11-14)

11. “Moreover, say to the royal house of Judah, ‘Hear the word of the Lord.

12. This is what the Lord says to you, house of David: “‘Administer justice every morning; rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed, or my wrath will break out and burn like fire because of the evil you have done burn with no one to quench it.

13. I am against you, Jerusalem, you who live above this valley on the rocky plateau, declares the Lord—you who say, “Who can come against us? Who can enter our refuge?”

14. I will punish you as your deeds deserve, declares the Lord. I will kindle a fire in your forests that will consume everything around you.’”

PRACTICAL POINTS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. God gives every person the opportunity to chose between life and death (Jeremiah 21:8-9; Deuteronomy 30:15, 19;
Romans 8:5-7).

2. When God is against us because of our sins, there is nowhere else to turn for help (Jeremiah 21:10; I Samuel 6:19-21; Revelation 6:17).

3. When God speaks everyone should listen, especially our leaders (Jeremiah 21:11).

4. God expects all of us to treat people fairly and defend those who are oppressed (Jeremiah 21:12).

5. It’s foolish to put our trust in things that cannot help when God is against us (Jeremiah 21:13; Psalms 146:3).

6. When it comes to punishing those who refuse to obey Him, the LORD will be fair and give us what our sin deserves (Jeremiah 21:14).