

03

JEREMIAH 7:1-15

TURNING FROM SIN

THIS WEEK'S **focus**

Imagine if you went to church every Sunday to worship, study God's Word, and pray with your church family, then spent the rest of the week cheating on tests, disrespecting your family, and bullying vulnerable students at school. What would your actions throughout the week say about your devotion to God? In Jeremiah's time, the temple was the most significant place for God's people, but it was much more than a mere church building. It represented God's throne on the earth. However, the temple had become nothing more than a superstitious symbol for most people. The temple-goers sang songs, burnt sacrifices, and prayed prayers. But their lives were filled with evil, oppressive, immoral, unjust practices. Unless they repented and made a change, the temple they loved and leaned on would be broken to bits, along with their own lives.



CENTRAL **truth**

God forgives us when we repent.



EXPLORE

scripture

JEREMIAH 7:1-15

JEREMIAH 7:1-4

1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: 2 “Stand in the gate of the house of the LORD and there call out this word: ‘Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah who enter through these gates to worship the LORD. 3 This is what the LORD of Armies,

the God of Israel, says: Correct your ways and your actions, and I will allow you to live in this place. 4 Do not trust deceitful words, chanting, “This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.”

JEREMIAH 7:5-11

5 “Instead, if you really correct your ways and your actions, if you act justly toward one another, 6 if you no longer oppress the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow and no longer shed innocent blood in this place or follow other gods, bringing harm on yourselves, 7 I will allow you to live in this place, the land I gave to your ancestors long ago and forever. 8 But look, you keep trusting in deceitful words that cannot help. 9 Do you

steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and follow other gods that you have not known? 10 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”? 11 Has this house, which bears my name, become a den of robbers in your view? Yes, I too have seen it. This is the LORD’s declaration.

JEREMIAH 7:12-15

12 “But return to my place that was at Shiloh, where I made my name dwell at first. See what I did to it because of the evil of my people Israel. 13 Now, because you have done all these things —this is the Lord’s declaration — and because I have spoken to you time and time again but you wouldn’t listen, and I have called to you, but

you wouldn’t answer, 14 what I did to Shiloh I will do to the house that bears my name, the house in which you trust, the place that I gave you and your ancestors. 15 I will banish you from my presence, just as I banished all of your brothers, all the descendants of Ephraim.’”

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE JEREMIAH 7:23

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

JEREMIAH 7:1-4

DWELL

God called for His people to repent—to turn around from sin and change their ways and actions. No amount of religious activity was going to wipe clean the sin of the people. Only repentance could do that. When we repent of sin, we turn from it, turn to God in prayer, confess our sins, and ask for forgiveness. He lovingly and willingly forgives, cleanses us, and restores our relationship with Him. Only then can we, by God's grace, make changes in our lives from sin to righteousness.

← What would have been the right way for Jeremiah's original listeners to respond to his message?

↪ Is there anything you feel like you need to repent for and turn from? What would it look like for you to do that?

MEMORIZE

Write Jeremiah 7:23 in a journal each day this week and read it aloud 2–3 times. If you'd like, you can decorate the margins with doodles related to the verse.

PRAY

Tell God the sin you feel convicted of. Ask for His loving and ready forgiveness. As you receive His forgiveness and cleansing, commit to follow Him today by His empowering grace.

day 2

JEREMIAH 7:5-11

DWELL

The temple was originally built to gather faithful worshippers of God who wanted to study and obey His Word. The temple was meant to draw seekers of God from all nations and to be a house of justice, mercy, and kindness. Now, the “temple” is the Christ's church—the people he has saved and redeemed are its living stones. Together, we show God’s presence and goodness to the world. When we gather, it’s to focus on God and each other and how we can stir one another to love and good works (see Heb. 10:24-25).

↔ What should our attitude and intent be when we gather with others at church?

→ What are ways we can keep our worship gatherings from becoming a “den of robbers” like the temple is described in Jeremiah 7:5-11?

MEMORIZE

Write Jeremiah 7:23 on a note card and post it somewhere you’ll see it regularly, or save it as the lock screen on your phone. Say it aloud 2–3 times whenever you see it.

PRAY

Thank the Lord for inviting you to be a part of His church. Commit to serve others like He serves you. Pray for your local church to be a holy and loving place for people to gather.

day 3

JEREMIAH 7:12-15

DWELL

Through the witness of His Word and the witness of His countless prophets (including Jeremiah), God tried to get His people's attention. Scripture doesn't say the people couldn't hear God speak, or that they were unaware of His attempts to reach them. God simply told them, “You wouldn't answer.” Has anyone ever tried to text you and you ignored the message? Then, you saw them later and said something like, “Oh, you texted me? I didn't see that! Sorry.” But you know you did see it. Likewise, God repeatedly warned His people in clear ways. They simply ignored Him.

↑ What do God's repeated attempts to reach His people to help them tell you about His character and nature?

↓ Why do people tend to ignore God's voice? How can you listen to Him better in your life?

MEMORIZE

Every time you wash your hands today, say as much of Jeremiah 7:23 aloud as you can remember.

PRAY

Thank the Lord that He wants to speak to you. Commit to listening to His Word, His Holy Spirit, and trusted leaders. Ask Him to speak to you and commit to obey what He says.

day 4

MATTHEW 21:6-13

DWELL

↑ What does Jesus's temple cleansing tell us about His priorities?

↪ How can this passage help you shape your priorities when you come to the Lord in prayer?

The people had been hoping Jesus was the king they had been waiting for. So far Jesus hadn't gone along with their plan, but now, finally, He did something kingly! By riding into Jerusalem like royalty, He fulfilled a prophecy from Zechariah 9:9, and the people loved it! What would His next kingly act be? Would He overthrow Rome? Nope: The first thing He did after His triumphal entry was to clean out the temple of everything that prevented people from worshiping God. Pure worship, not political power, was on the top of Jesus's priority list.

MEMORIZE

Ask 2–3 people today if you can practice reciting Jeremiah 7:23 for them.

PRAY

Give the Lord thanks that He's always saving you from sinful attitudes and actions that will harm you. Pray for Him to make you a holy temple for His glory.

day 5

MARK 12:41-44

DWELL

↻ Why did Jesus praise the widow? How does this passage reveal what matters most to God?

➔ How can you grow in offering God all of your worship and devotion?

As people, we can be so impressed by quantity: how tall, rich, old, strong, or fast someone is. Jesus's disciples saw certain rich folks giving massive quantities of money in the temple—they probably didn't even notice the poor widow standing in line. But Jesus noticed her! She gave the smallest quantity, but received praise from the Son of God Himself. In worship, God sees the heart. He's after the quality of our extravagant surrender to Him. The size of the worshiper or church means little to Him. The sincerity of the worshiper is what matters to God.

MEMORIZE

Write out each of the words of Jeremiah 7:23 on note cards or scraps of paper, and mix them up. See if you can put them in the correct order from memory.

PRAY

Thank the Lord that He gave His all to have you as His own. Make a fresh commitment today to love and serve Him, holding nothing back.