

LET IT ALL FALL DOWN

BUILDING OUR CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST
a study in jeremiah

#14 “LEADING IN JUDGEMENT” | Home Group Notes - Week of 08/18/2013

Introduction: We are continuing our sermon series through the book of Jeremiah. We’ve been talking about how God allows us to be broken down so that we can be rebuilt in Him. This week we are talking about judgement, leadership, and what those things mean for our lives.

A. Discussion Questions:

- What is “judgement” and what does it mean to be “judged?”
- If leaders are judged more strictly, why would we want to be leaders?

Not many of you should become **teachers**, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. **James 3:1**

A. Leaders must LEAD WITH JUDGEMENT because Leaders are FIRST TO COME UNDER JUDGEMENT

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. **Ephesians 4:11-13**

I. Jeremiah 23:1-8

¹ “Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!” declares the Lord. ² Therefore this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: “Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done,” declares the Lord... ⁴ I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing,” declares the Lord. ⁵ “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.

1. Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think the bible uses the image of a shepherd when speaking of leaders?
- Do you feel cared for and protected by leaders? Are you a caring leader?

1. Leaders must CARE FOR AND PROTECT PEOPLE EVEN IN DIFFICULT TIMES

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. **John 10:11-15**

II. Jeremiah 23:9-40

¹⁶ This is what the Lord Almighty says: “Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. ¹⁷ They keep saying to those who despise me, ‘The Lord says: You will have peace.’ And to all who follow the stubbornness of their hearts they say, ‘No harm will come to you.’ ¹⁸ But which of them has stood in the council of the Lord to see or to hear his word? Who has listened and heard his word?... ²¹ I did not send these prophets, yet they have run with their message; I did not speak to them, yet they have prophesied. ²² But if they had stood in my council, they would have proclaimed my words to my people and would have turned them from their evil ways and from their evil deeds.

2. Discussion Questions:

- *What keeps us from encouraging others? What keeps us from confronting them?*
- *How would your life be different if you made a habit of “speaking honestly” with everyone? Is that the same thing as saying whatever you think?*

2. Leaders must SPEAK HONESTLY Both TO ENCOURAGE AND TO CONFRONT

For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.
2 Timothy 4:3

III. Jeremiah 24:1-10

³ Then the Lord asked me, “What do you see, Jeremiah?” “Figs,” I answered. “The good ones are very good, but the bad ones are so bad they cannot be eaten.” ⁴ Then the word of the Lord came to me: ⁵ “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘Like these good figs, I regard as good the exiles from Judah, whom I sent away from this place to the land of the Babylonians. ⁶ My eyes will watch over them for their good, and I will bring them back to this land. I will build them up and not tear them down; I will plant them and not uproot them. ⁷ I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart.’”

2. Discussion Questions:

- *What does it mean to “convey God’s judgement” to someone else? Is there a right way and a wrong way to do this?*
- *How can judgement lead to restoration?*

3. Leaders must CONVEY GOD’S JUDGEMENT Otherwise THEY STAND IN THE WAY OF RESTORATION

*He replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.” ²⁹ As the crowds increased, Jesus said, “This is a wicked generation. It asks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah. ³⁰ For as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so also will the Son of Man be to this generation. ³¹ The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon’s wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here. ³² The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here. **Luke 11:28–32***

Application Questions:

- *Has God called you to leadership? Are you exercising the authority you currently have with love and care and good judgement?*
- *Is there something in your life that you need to repent of so that God can bring restoration? What’s the next step in that process?*