

Choosing Our Source of Satisfaction
Series: The Story, chapter 17
February 9, 2014 Pastor Bill Bump

As we have studied the kings and prophets of the Old Testament, we have learned what happens when we put our hope in something other than God.

A quick recap of the disaster that occurred in the nation of Israel because of their idolatry:

God sent nine different prophets to warn the people: “Look, judgment is coming if you don’t do some things differently.”

The Babylonians came in, took Jerusalem, and destroyed the Temple, and the people were taken captive.

One of those left behind was Jeremiah, and his job was to continue preaching God’s Word to the people and calling on them to repent.

Jeremiah was so passionate about his job that he is called the “weeping prophet.”

The message God gave to Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 2:9-13 (NIV) “Therefore I bring charges against you again,” declares the LORD. “And I will bring charges against your children’s children. ¹⁰Cross over to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and observe closely; see if there has ever been anything like this: ¹¹Has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols. ¹²Be appalled at this, you heavens, and shudder with great horror,” declares the LORD. ¹³“My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.”

Jeremiah helps us understand that idolatry is not just a sin among many, but it is a sin that all sins fall under.

Jeremiah compared idolatry to cisterns that don’t hold water.

In Jeremiah 2:13, God compares Himself to a spring of living water.

Each of us must decide what is going to be our source of satisfaction.

God’s warning to us when we choose idolatry:

Jeremiah 2:12 (NIV) “Be appalled at this, you heavens, and shudder with great horror,” declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 2:19 (NIV) “Your wickedness will punish you; your backsliding will rebuke you. Consider then and realize how evil and bitter it is for you when you forsake the LORD your God and have no awe of me,” declares the Lord, the LORD Almighty.”

Conclusion

Again and again in the Old Testament, the people turned to idols. They turned away from God and turned

back to their cisterns.

Finally in the New Testament, Jesus came on the scene, and He introduced Himself as “the Living Water.”

John 4:10-14 (NIV) [Jesus said to the Samaritan woman,] ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

¹¹ “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

¹³ Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

John 7:37-38 (NIV) On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”