

WHAT SIN AND REPENTANCE LOOK LIKE AND HOW TO MOVE FROM SIN TO REPENTANCE!!

Jeremiah 3:6-4:31

WHAT SIN LOOKS LIKE!!

1. REBELLION AGAINST GOD - v6 - *During the reign of King Josiah, the LORD said to me, "Have you seen what faithless Israel has done? She has gone up on every high hill and under every spreading tree and has committed adultery there.*

"I will do it MY WAY"!!!!

2. A LIFESTYLE THAT IS HABITUAL AND APPROVED -

*v7 I thought that after she had done all this she would return to me **but she did not** and her unfaithful sister Judah saw it.*

Sins are an outward expression of an inward state of mind.

Sin is the normal behaviour of people without GOD

3. SIN HAS NO FEAR OF CONSEQUENCE - v8 *I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries. Yet I saw that her unfaithful sister **Judah had no fear; she also went out and committed adultery.***

We see the consequences of sinful behaviour all around us, yet we do not change our ways. Just think of what corruption has done to our country, yet we read about corruption stories in our newspapers every day.

4. SIN EXCHANGES THE GLORY OF GOD WITH IDOLS - v9 - *Because Israel's immorality mattered so little to her, she defiled the land and committed adultery with stone and wood.*

How ridiculous to create a stone/wooden creature, and then call it "god".

5. SIN CAN ALSO MEAN NOT DOING SOMETHING -

v11 The LORD said to me, "Faithless Israel is more righteous than unfaithful Judah.

If you know the truth you should practice what you preach.

James 4:17 Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

WHAT REPENTANCE LOOKS LIKE!!

1. REPENTANCE IS NOT REMORSE - v10 - *In spite of all this, her unfaithful sister Judah did not return to me with all her heart, but only in pretence," declares the LORD.*

Remorse is the emotion, repentance is the action.

2. REPENTANCE STARTS IN GOD HEART - v12 - *Go, proclaim this message toward the north:*

"Return, faithless Israel," declares the LORD, 'I will frown on you no longer, for I am merciful,' declares the LORD, 'I will not be angry forever.

John 3:16 For GOD so loved the world.....

3. REPENTANCE RESULTS IN RESTORATION - v14 - *"Return, faithless people," declares the LORD, "for I am your husband. **I will** choose you--one from a town and two from a clan--and **bring you to Zion.** v15 **Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart,** who will lead you with knowledge and understanding. v16 In those days, **when your numbers have increased** greatly in the land," declares the LORD, "men will no longer say, 'The ark of the covenant of the LORD.' It will never enter their minds or be remembered; it will not be missed, nor will another one be made. v17 **At that time they will call Jerusalem The Throne of the LORD,** and all nations will gather in Jerusalem to honour the name of the LORD. No longer will they follow the stubbornness of their evil hearts. v18 In those days the*

house of Judah will join the house of Israel, and together they will come from a northern land to the land I gave your forefathers as an inheritance.

GODS PRESENCE IS RESTORED – LIKE IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN!

HOW TO MOVE FROM SIN TO REPENTANCE!!

1. LISTEN TO THE CALL OF GOD - v12 - *Go, proclaim this message toward the north: "Return, faithless Israel," declares the LORD, 'I will frown on you no longer, for I am merciful,' declares the LORD, 'I will not be angry forever.*

GOD IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE

1 Timothy 2:3-6 This ... pleases God our Savior, v4 who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. v5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, v6 who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time.

2. REPENTANCE IS NEEDED BY ALL, EVEN HIS PEOPLE - v22 - *"Return, faithless people; I will cure you of backsliding." "Yes, we will come to you, for you are the LORD our God.*

When you point a finger at someone, remember three are pointing back at you.

3. REPENTANCE REQUIRES RECOGNISING OUR SIN - v13 *Only acknowledge your guilt, you have rebelled against the LORD your God, you have scattered your favours to foreign gods under every spreading tree, and have not obeyed me,' "*

We need to stop justifying our bad behaviour

4. REPENTANCE REQUIRES ACTION - v4:1 - *"If you will return, O Israel, return to me," declares the LORD. "If you put your detestable idols out of my sight and no longer go astray,*

Sometimes DRASTIC action is required.

5. REPENTANCE REQUIRES COMMITMENT - v4:2 - *and if in a truthful, just and righteous way you swear, 'As surely as the LORD lives,' then the nations will be blessed by him and in him they will glory."*

Can God trust our PROMISES?

6. REPENTANCE REQUIRES A BROKEN HEART - v4:3 - *This is what the LORD says to the men of Judah and to Jerusalem: "Break up your unploughed ground and do not sow among thorns. v4 Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, circumcise your hearts, you men of Judah and people of Jerusalem, or my wrath will break out and burn like fire because of the evil you have done-- burn with no one to quench it.*

We need to have GENUINE REMORSE.

CONCLUSION **JESUS said**

Luke 5:31-32 "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. v32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

John 7:37 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. v29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. v30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."