

JEREMIAH 2-20

# A RELATIONSHIP RUINED



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# 1. THE GOOD OLD DAYS

“I remember the devotion of your youth,

how as a bride you loved me

and followed me through the wilderness,

through a land not sown.

Israel was holy to the Lord,

the first fruits of his harvest;

all who devoured her were held guilty,

and disaster overtook them,”

declares the Lord.’ **Jeremiah 2:2-3**

## 2. ADULTERY RUNS IN THE FAMILY

- '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 2:13**
- 'Indeed, on every high hill and under every spreading tree you lay down as a prostitute' **Jeremiah 2:20**
- 'you have the brazen look of a prostitute; you refuse to blush with shame. Have you not just called to me: "My Father, my friend from my youth, will you always be angry?"' **Jeremiah 3:5**

## 2. ADULTERY RUNS IN THE FAMILY

- 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 thought that after she had done all this she would return to me but she did not, and her unfaithful sister Judah saw it. 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....<sup>10</sup> In spite of all this, her unfaithful sister Judah did not return to me with all her heart, but only in pretense,” declares the Lord. **Jeremiah 3:6-10**

## 2. ADULTERY RUNS IN THE FAMILY

- 'The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority and my people love it this way. But what will you do in the end?' **Jeremiah 5:31**

# 3. A PAINFUL DIVORCE

- **For Israel**

- 'A lion has come out of his lair; a destroyer of nations has set out. He has left its place to lay waste to your land. Your towns will lie in ruins without inhabitant' **Jeremiah 4:7**

- **For Jeremiah**

- 'Oh that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears! I would weep day and night for the slain of my people' **Jeremiah 9:1**

# 3. A PAINFUL DIVORCE

- **For God**
- **The God who warns**
  - 'Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, circumcise your hearts you people of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem or my wrath will flare up and burn like fire because of the evil you have done - burn with no one to quench it' **Jeremiah 4:4**



# 3. A PAINFUL DIVORCE

- **For God**
- **ii. The God who shows mercy in the midst of wrath**
  - 'though I will not destroy it completely'

## 4. HOPE OF RESTORATION

- 'If a man divorces his wife and she leaves him and marries another man, should he return to her again? Would not the land be completely defiled? But you have lived as a prostitute with many lovers - would you now return to me?' declares the LORD' **Jeremiah 3:1**

# 4. HOPE OF RESTORATION

- “‘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. Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding. In those days, when your numbers have increased greatly in the land,’ declares the LORD, people will no longer say, “The ark of the covenant of the LORD.” It will never enter their mind or be remembered; it will not be missed, nor will another one be made. 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. In those days the people of Judah will join the people of Israel, and together they will come from a northern land to the land I gave your ancestors as an inheritance’ **Jeremiah 3:4ff**

# QUESTIONS

- What do my actions say about what I love? What is impacting my relationship with God negatively? What changes do I need to make to stop this happening?
- Am I wilfully doing something I know dishonours God?
- Again - Does my heart break for the lost? Hope-fully not hopelessly.
- Do I trust the Lord Jesus?