

REAL AGONY

Use the following notes in your Growth Group or for further personal study of today's message. We hope these will enrich and deepen your walk as you study God's Word.

GETTING STARTED:

1. What stands out to you in this sermon or had an impact on your life?

DIGGING DEEPER

2. How has your brokenness or wounds served as a tool for God to use you to help and serve others?
3. How is Israel like the 10 word pictures (unfaithful wife, broken cisterns, a plundered salve, etc.) Jeremiah uses to describe them (*Jeremiah 2:1-37*)?
4. How does this differ from the description of Israel (*Jeremiah 2:2-3*)?
5. How do you respond inwardly to the statement that our problem is not financial, getting old, gaining weight or politics, but rather, obedience?
6. What does it tell you about God's love that he wants to take Israel back (*Jeremiah 3:1, 7, 12, 22; 4:1*)?
7. With disobedience comes the need for returning to the Lord and repentance. Do you respond inwardly by loving that message or kicking the messenger?
8. How do the consequences of the disobedient choices we make demonstrate God's love and care for us?
9. How should we show the genuineness of our obedience to the Lord?

APPLICATION:

10. As we, together, agonize over our faithfulness to the Lord, how can others pray for you, assist you or care for you?

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2/12 in the series Jeremiah: Wounded Healer
January 11, 2015 • Pastor Robb Williams • *Jeremiah*

For our healing and for the healing of others, let's agonize over the right issues. What are those things that truly bring agony of an heart? Is it sickness or disease? Maybe a life of agony is the experienced loss, or in our being unappreciated or overlooked? Jeremiah's great agony was over unconfessed sin, and the *Weeping Prophet's* message was met with disdain and mockery. Let's look into his words and see if our response could be more honoring to the Lord.

1. **Agony is unfaithfulness to God**-(*Jeremiah 2:1-37*). It is such a big deal that Jeremiah uses 10 word pictures to make one point.
2. **Returning is our healthy next step**-(*Jeremiah 3:1, 7, 12, 22; 4:1*). With "backsliding" there becomes a need for repentance, or changing one's mind for a return to faithfulness.
3. **Consequences**-(*Jeremiah 6:1-30*). Whether we listen and respond correctly, or not, has grave consequence.

Application

Of all our concerns, let's agonize over our faithfulness to God.

NEXT WEEK: 3/12 • Jeremiah 7:16-29-Internal Piety
Pastor Robb Williams