

Sermon Study Guide – September 3rd, 2023

"Bear Your Cross, Don't Throw It Away"

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ What does it mean to “bear your cross”? How does our world look at the crosses we bear? How does Jesus talk about them?
- ◆ As we continue our series on “The Church God Wants”, do we see it as the job of the church to remove such crosses? If not, what purpose might these crosses serve?

2) Today's Message: Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵ LORD, you understand; remember me and care for me. Avenge me on my persecutors. You are long-suffering—do not take me away; think of how I suffer reproach for your sake. ¹⁶ When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, LORD God Almighty. ¹⁷ I never sat in the company of revelers, never made merry with them; I sat alone because your hand was on me and you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸ Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable? You are to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails.

¹⁹ Therefore this is what the LORD says: “If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman. Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them. ²⁰ I will make you a wall to this people, a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you to rescue and save you,” declares the LORD. ²¹ “I will save you from the hands of the wicked and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel.”

3) What does God want you to hear today?

Throughout the sermon, consider...

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:



Answer the following questions if it helps you follow the sermon...

1. How did Jesus define “bearing your cross” in our Gospel reading?
2. What “crosses” did Jeremiah bear? How did he feel about them?
3. What did/didn’t God promise Jeremiah about his crosses?
4. Was Jesus’ cross bad? Did he want it? Was it necessary?
5. Why does Jesus want his church to bear their crosses also?
6. How can you be sure God is there, even in bad times?
7. What positive purpose can pain/crosses have?

4) Taking it Home:

Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week’s truths:

Monday: *review* Ps. 31, Mt. 16:21-25

Thursday: Jeremiah 1

Tuesday: Isaiah 26

Friday: *read/review* Jeremiah 15

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Saturday: *read/review* Romans 8