**“Honesty”**

Going deeper in Jeremiah 15:10-21

**INTRODUCTION** – Several things have happened before this. The people have refused to respond to Jeremiah’s message, there has been a drought as part of God’s judgment, and other prophets have given messages declaring there will be peace rather than the judgment Jeremiah has been speaking of. All of this weighs on Jeremiah and what follows is his prayer to the LORD.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 10 My unlucky mother – you had me as a son. A man who is at the center of many clashes and controversy all across the land! I have never been indebted in word or deed, but everyone is out to get me. 11 The LORD said to me, “You can count on me to strengthen you for a good purpose; those who are opposed to you will ask you to intercede during the time of disaster and distress that will come. 12 “O Israel and Judah, can anyone break iron? The kind of iron and bronze that is coming from the north? 13 Your wealth and treasures I will give away as plunder, without charge because of all your sins throughout all your territories. 14 I will give you over in judgement to your enemies from a strange and foreign land because my anger is blazing and fierce, burning against you in judgement.” 15 “O LORD, you know and understand me. Take my side against those who are pursuing me. I know you have enduring patience, but don’t stand back and let them ruin me. You’ve got to know the suffering I am going through for your sake! 16 When your words came to me, I ate them up. They were my joy and my heart’s delight because they came from you O LORD, the God of Angel Armies! 17 I didn’t join the party crowd and find joy in the wrong things. Led by you, I went off by myself and you filled me with indignation. 18 Why is my pain unending? Why does the wound just get worse with no healing in sight? Will you be like a deceptive stream with a spring that dries up?” 19 This is how the LORD answered me, “Take back those words and I will restore you. Then you will stand before me. If you shake out the worthy words from the worthless ones. Then you and only then will you speak for me. Use words that help people return to me and don’t change your words to suit them. 20 Then I will make you a fortified iron wall to these people. They will attack you but they will not prevail against you because I am your savior. I will be the One to defend and deliver you, that is my word to you. 21 I will deliver you from the grip of the wicked and redeem you from the clutches of the vicious.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What does this passage tell you about the kind of person Jeremiah is?

2. How is Jeremiah feeling about the adventure of his calling? Have you ever felt like that? How did the Lord meet you in it?

3. In verse 10 Jeremiah is feeling that his life has no purpose. What is the LORD’s response to that in verse 11? What do you need God’s reassurance about today?

4. Notice the word “all” in verses 12 and 13? What is the LORD saying about the extent of their sin? Why would the LORD wait until sin permeates “all” the land?

5. Jeremiah is feeling pain because of the waywardness of his people. Have you ever felt that way when people you loved wandered from the LORD and His purposes? What has helped you with that?

6. What is God’s response to Jeremiah’s prayer (v. 19-21)? Why do you think the LORD calls Jeremiah to take back his words (the literal translation is “repent”)?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Take some time to be silent with the Lord Jesus. When you are ready talk to Him about the things you don’t understand in your journey with Him.

\*Tell the Lord that you want to hear His response.

\*Ask the Lord to help you come up with a plan to act on whatever it is that He tells you.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

Jeremiah’s prayer shows us of the importance of being honest with God. And that being honest with God calls us to be open to His response. Are you willing to grow in your honesty with the Lord Jesus and to be open to ‘whatever’ He tells you?