

Running with the Horses: Don't Believe the Lies

January 15, 2023

Our faithfulness to God can be compared to the kind of faithfulness required in the high and low seasons of marriage. In Jeremiah 7:1-15, Jeremiah gave a sermon challenging the Israelite people about their faithfulness to God beyond the temple gatherings, similarly to the faithfulness needed beyond the wedding day to the actual marriage. The right place no longer launched the right posture of faith. The right words no longer expressed the right works of love. We can come with this same mindset of faithfulness on a Sunday morning while living a life of sin the rest of the week. But God invites us to live a life with him and for him, even when things get hard.

Getting Started

Do you have any funny or memorable stories from your wedding or a wedding you've attended?

Read

Jeremiah 7:1-15

Digging Deeper

1. Which one of these quotes sticks out to you from the sermon? How can you identify with these words in your own life?

- Their religious lives were impeccable; their everyday lives were rotten. -Eugene Peterson
- Temple attendance is easy. Covenant faithfulness is hard.
- Yahweh is prepared to let his palace be destroyed rather than have them think that in itself it guarantees their security.

2. "Some of us want the wedding with God week after week after week—we just don't want the marriage." Can you relate to one of these bullet points or do you have another personal example?

- We want the emotional high of our favorite worship song that we'll scream at the top of our lungs; but when we don't feel anything our faith sounds more like a whisper
- We want the golden nugget from the sermon; we don't want a life of regular prayer and scripture meditation
- We want the smiles and the coffee once a week; we don't want the well of living water flowing from within us every day of the week.

3. What's the prophetic announcement that God is giving life with Him and for Him at it's best?

- Is it our deceptive words?
- Is it our deceptive actions?
- Is it complacency of being in the right place and saying the right words? That quiet quit where we are doing the bare minimum for a God that wants the absolute maximum for our lives.
- Are some of us relying on the relics of our past life of faith (a prayer, an experience at camp, etc.) with the belief that we will experience God in the future? All the while God is saying, "dwell with me now!"



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