

The Lord's Day

“Life Remade”

Scripture Lesson – Jeremiah 18:1-12

Text – Jeremiah 18:4

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Introduction

1. It is interesting to me to see how many of the great men of Scripture became discouraged.
 - a. David
 1. Defeated Goliath
 2. Yet hear his pitiful cry, “I shall one day perish by the hand of Saul.”
 - b. Elijah
 1. Stood before the multitude and single-handed routed the false prophets of Baal.
 2. Yet see him under the juniper tree and asking God to let him die.
 - c. John the Baptist
 1. Standing before Herod and Herodias and bravely telling the king he had no right to have this woman as his wife; declared Christ Lamb which should take away sin of the world.
 2. But see him shut up in prison sending and asking if Christ were “He who should come” or should he look for another?
2. See Jeremiah terribly discouraged
 - a. Said as long as he lived he would never open his mouth to prophesy again.
 - b. We wonder at it.
 - c. Yet when we read the book we find...
 1. Israel is living in sin
 2. They are violating the law of God
 3. He has announced to them the coming judgments of God
 4. But they go on ruining their lives, saying in verse 12, “We will walk after our own devices and will do every one the imagination of his evil heart.”
 - d. No wonder his heart is all but broken
 - e. Men all about him are wasting their lives
3. Some of us today know the feeling of Jeremiah
 - a. See find upstanding young men who are doing the very things we know will ruin their lives.
 - b. See lives being wrecked and ruined
 1. Gambling
 2. Drinking
 3. Playing loose with morals
 4. Living selfishly
 - c. Sometimes seems more than we can stand

4. But God sent Jeremiah to the potter's house.
 - a. There Jeremiah saw the potter spinning a vessel on his wheel. It was almost finished and then he saw it marred. Then he saw the potter make it over again as he would have it.
 - b. God said to Jeremiah, "I can and will make over the people of Israel."

5. Here is the great encouragement we have – God can remake that marred life.
 - a. Jeremiah was not to despair
 - b. God is gracious and merciful
 - c. God can remake lives

6. Let us then look at this passage this morning.

I. There is individual responsibility

1. We have an individual responsibility to God
2. Today we are prone to feel that we have no individual responsibility
 - a. Everybody does it
 - b. We are far too prone to let our conduct be governed by the crowd
3. Here in our fair city we are losing much that has made us great
 - a. Sabbath observance
 1. Saying we'll all do it
 2. We need some people who will stand up and say, "No."
 - b. Gambling
 1. We feel that because others do it we must, too.
 2. Talking to lady the other day who said all of her friends played cards for money and played on Sunday and she would have to stand alone.
 - c. Business principles
 1. Man who said he could not be on some boards because they were willing to do in the name of a corporation what he was not willing to do personally.
 - d. Jonathan Edwards wrote in his diary: "Resolved, first that every man should live always and everywhere at his highest and best for God. Resolved, second, whether any other man in world strives to do so, or not, I will, so help me God."
4. God has a plan for your life
 - a. He wants you to be something
 1. He has a blue print for your life
 - b. He would make something fine and noble out of you
5. Have you marred your life?
 - a. By rebelling against God when disappointments come
 1. Because we have been disappointed about something we want, we have broken our contact with God and are having our lives marred.
 - b. Because we are failing to use the power God has given us
 1. Money used for selfishness
 2. Talents desecrated
 - c. Because you have allowed some habit to take hold of your life
 1. What a sad thing it is to see men whose lives have been marred and Ruined

2. Sam Slay in Corsicana who had fine position in bank and began drinking and gambling – saw life ruined
6. None of us have measured up

II. God can remake

1. Dr. Truett, talking to who had allowed an accumulation of sinful habits to ruin his life, and brought him to shame – Dr. Truett asked him if he could come face to face with Christ, what he would ask Him. The man answered, “Sir, I would ask Him to make me over again.”
2. God tells Jeremiah He can do it
 - a. He made David over after his fall
 - b. He made Peter over after his fall
3. Come to Him asking forgiveness
 - a. He can give it
 1. No matter what you have done
4. Come to Him yielding your life to Him to be made into what He would make it
 - a. Will be pruning
5. Come trusting His power
 - a. Will be need for this
 - b. God can make you a glorious creature
 - c. Illustration