

A Second Honeymoon

Call to Me
Jeremiah 33

- A breakdown in communication—enhance and sustain relational intimacy or be the demise of it.
 - Struggling to convey what they want or need in a relationship, never realizing they are speaking a language the other does not comprehend.
 - Defenses are erected, guards are up. Talk equals blame, listening stops.
 - We search for signs of love, but we become attuned to signs of disapproval.
 - Destabilizes our identity, misunderstood and not loved.
 - Caring with criticism—diet and ice cream. He feels judged, distant, and misunderstood.
- Three levels of communication-Grunt, Journalist, and Feelings

“Love? Yes, God loves us. But his love is passionate and seeks faithful, committed love in return. God does not want tame pets to fondle and feed; he wants mature, free people who will respond to him in authentic individuality. For that to happen there must be honesty and truth. The self must be toppled from its pedestal. There must be pure hearts and clear intelligence, confession of sin and commitment in faith.”

— Eugene H. Peterson, *Run with the Horses:
The Quest for Life at Its Best*

- How can this be love?
- Exile (being where we don't want to be with people we don't want to be with) forces a decision: Will I focus my attention on what is wrong with the world and feel sorry for myself? or will I focus my energies on how I can live at my best in this place I find myself? It is always easier to complain...Daily we face decisions on how to respond: "I don't like it; I want to be where I was ten years ago. How can you expect me to throw myself into what I don't like—that would be sheer hypocrisy. What sense is there in taking risks and tiring myself out among people I don't even like in a place where I have no future?"

- Or, I will do my best with what is here. God is the God of this place. God is here with me. These people are people that God loves. I will live out the will of God here, even though I am full of fear and have much to learn. Change is hard. Building relationship and developing intimacy with new people is difficult and risky, but if that is what it means to be alive and human, I will do it.
- Fenelon: There are two kinds of people: some look at life and complain of what is not there; others look at life and rejoice in what is there. Will we live on the basis of what we don't have or on what we do have?

- A promise of a second honeymoon.
 - The honeymoon you always dreamed of, but maybe didn't have the money or time to do the first time.
 - Something's wrong with the marriage and needs fixing
 - Recreate the original experience
- God: I'll show up and take care of you as I promised and bring you back home. I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you not abandon you, plans to give you a future you hope for. When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen. When you come looking for me, you'll find me.

Jeremiah 33:3 Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

- Prayer as an Expression of Your Greatest Hope
- Prayer out of the knowledge of God's precious promises.
 - The day that the false prophets had said would never happen has happened. They said they spoke for God.
- Now they are exiles. They are losing their homes, their lives, everything.
- In the midst of the most desperate times God gives them the most precious promise.
- God's word said that they would go into exile; now God's word with equal certainty declares their restoration at the end of the seventy years.

Jeremiah 33:6

Behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security. 7 I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and rebuild them as they were at first. 8 I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me. 9 And this city shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and a glory before all the nations of the earth who shall hear of all the good that I do for them.

Certainty of the Future Hope__Prophetic Drama

- The siege. A charred letter was found under pottery in Lakish.
- Jeremiah is told by God to buy land in the occupied territory. He is pay 17 shekels. This goes against Jeremiah's instincts. Why buy now? God says, because the day is coming in which this deed will be honored.

- “I knew that this was the word of the Lord; 9 so I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out for him seventeen shekels of silver. 10 I signed and sealed the deed, had it witnessed, and weighed out the silver on the scales. 11 I took the deed of purchase—the sealed copy containing the terms and conditions, as well as the unsealed copy— 12 and I gave this deed to Baruch though the city will be given into the hands of the Babylonians, you, Sovereign Lord, say to me, ‘Buy the field with silver and have the transaction witnessed.’”

27 “I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?”

- When we call on God, seek his blessing, when we cry to Him, he answers us in ways unknown to us
- The problem so impossible, is answered by your heavenly Father. Buy the field in Anathoth
- Promises in a hopeless situation; Promises an impossible answer. He promises too much.
- Great things and walled off—cities in Canaan, a walled city is inaccessible. only things that are walled off in heaven. He will answer from the new Jerusalem.

A New Covenant

- Not tablets of stone, but written on our hearts
- Jesus gives Himself
- God's answer ultimately is Himself. In Him the fullness of the wisdom and righteousness of God

14 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 16 In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’

- Basis of hearing—His everlasting love, not your love for Him, but His love for you.