

“YHWH Tsidkenu: The LORD our Righteousness”

Sermon Notes

You can have an even greater hope than Jeremiah, because...

Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

(1) The Good Shepherd is gathering lost sheep (23:1-4)

(2) The LORD our Righteousness is reigning (23:5-6; 33:16)

(3) The Greater Moses is leading an exodus from bondage (23:7-8)

Community Group Study Questions

For the Week of July 31st – August 6th

Conversation Starters

Consider these words: justice, righteousness, equity, equality, fair, right, racism, oppression, oppressor/victim, peace. How do different people you know define these words? How do you define them?

Context

Jeremiah 23 is in a section that starts back in Jeremiah 21, so read Jer 21-22 first. Who sits on the throne when Jeremiah issues these prophecies? What does Jeremiah say about other recent kings: Jehoahaz (Shallum) in Jer 22:10-12; Jehoiakim (Eliakim) in Jer 22:13-23; Jehoiachin (Jeconiah) in Jer 22:24-30? Also, read 2 Kings 22-25 to get your sense of “historical bearings”.

This is prophetic literature. How does that impact your expectations and understanding of this passage?

Observation and Meaning

What does Jeremiah mean by “shepherds”? See Numbers 27:12-23 and 2 Samuel 5:2; 7:7. What does Jeremiah say elsewhere about that current generation of “shepherds”: Jer 10:21 and 25:34-38?

Notice these thematic words in vv. 1-4: shepherd, sheep, destroy, scatter, driving, gather, set, care. Notice also the play on words, with “attend”. What is the contrast between the shepherds who do “not attend” and what God “will attend” for them? What image does the LORD want you to see?

Beyond vv. 5-6, what else do we learn about the reign of a righteous King from these passages: Jer 21:11-12; 22:13-17; 33:14-17? Elsewhere, we learn that righteousness is found in and through God alone. Consider reading Deut 32:4; Isaiah 45:21, 24-25; 49:7 with 53 (the Suffering Servant); 54:17; 61:10; 62:1-2; Psalms Ps 89:14; 97:2; 119:142, 144; 129:4.

How do themes in this passage bridge to Jesus? There are many! Shepherd (vv. 1-4); messianic prophecies of vv. 5-6; a greater Moses of a greater Exodus (vv. 7-8)

When does the regathering take place: from exile in Babylon? In the first coming of Jesus Christ? Throughout the present age? At or near the final return of Jesus Christ? A mix of these?

In a single sentence or two of your own, summarize the main idea of Jer 23.

Application

How has this study changed or deepened your beliefs about God—as the LORD Our Righteousness?

Where do you need to repent of pursuing your own righteousness? Read Romans 3-4 to help you turn from yourself to the righteousness of Jesus Christ, received by faith alone.

How does Jer 23 reshape your desires, expectations, and longings?

How will you live differently this week in light of knowing Jesus, the Righteous Branch, the Davidic King?