

7—The Way Home

6/4/23

INTRO:

I. → Jeremiah 31:18-22

18 "I have surely heard Ephraim's moaning:

*'You disciplined me like an unruly **calf**,*

and I have been disciplined.

*Restore me, and I will **return**,*

because you are the LORD my God."

→ 19 "After I strayed,

I repented;

after I came to understand,

I beat my breast.

I was ashamed and humiliated

because I bore the disgrace of my youth."

→ 20 "Is not Ephraim my dear son,

the child in whom I delight?

Though I often speak against him,

I still remember him.

Therefore my heart yearns for him;

I have great compassion for him,"

declares the LORD.

→ 21 "Set up road signs;

put up guideposts.

Take note of the highway,

the road that you take.

Return, Virgin Israel,

return to your towns."

→ 22 "How long will you wander,

O Unfaithful Daughter?

The Lord will create a new thing on earth—

the woman will return to the man."

BODY:

I. Repenting Rebellion

19 "For after I turned around, I **repented**;
after I came to understand, I beat my breast.
I was ashamed and humiliated
because I bore the **disgrace** of my youth."

A. As long as we rebel we miss out on His grace.

1) **1 Samuel 15:22-23 (Samuel to Saul)**

*"To obey is better than sacrifice,
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.
For rebellion is like the sin of divination,
and arrogance like the evil of idolatry."*

2) **JEROBOAM BUILDING ALTARS IN BETHEL AND DAN**

a) The Canaanite God—"Bull El"

b) 1 Kings 12:28-29

*"It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Behold
Eloheyka, Israel, who brought you up out of the land of
Egypt."*

B. It takes humility to submit to God's plan for our lives.

1) **1 Peter 5:5-7**

*All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one
another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor
to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's
mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.*

2) **DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

When in the Course of human events, it becomes
necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands
which have connected them with another, and to
assume among the powers of the earth, the separate
and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of
Nature's God entitle them.

3) A nation built on rebellion

A religion built from protest

II. Remembering Mercy

20 "Though I often speak against him,
I still **remember** him.

Therefore my heart **yearns for him**;
I have great **compassion** for him,"

A. How we frame our history changes how we face our future.

1) **Genesis 32:31-32**

The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip. Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the tendon attached to the socket of the hip, because the socket of Jacob's hip was touched near the tendon.

2) **LETTING THE WOUNDS BECOME SCARS**

3) Galatians 6:17

From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

a) Grk (*stigmata*) scars, marks of a slave

B. God has plenty of mercy in store for all of our past regrets.

1) **1 John 3:19-20**

This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

2) **LIKE AN ELEPHANT THAT NEVER FORGETS**

III. Returning Home

21 "Set up road signs;
put up guideposts.
Take note of the highway,
the road that you take.
**Return, O Virgin Israel,
return to your towns."**

- A. God is constantly calling us to return and be renewed.
 - 1) From “unfaithful daughter” to “Virgin Israel”
 - 2) **Deuteronomy 30:4**
Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there the Lord your God will gather you and bring you back.
 - 3) THE PRODIGAL SON’S FATHER

- B. No matter how far we wander His always makes a way back.
 - 1) **Revelation 2:4-5**
“Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.”
 - 2) APOLLO 13 GOING HOME