

Things I've learned from Jeremiah:

“The prophetic book of Jeremiah sears the soul, challenges the conscience, and promises hope to the wounded in body and spirit.” – Kathleen O'Connor

- 1) *Hearing the Call*: No one WANTS to be a prophet. (Jeremiah 1)
- 2) *Proclaiming God's Word*: God's anger is challenging our world, right now; God's love is filling the world, right now.
- 3) *Go to the Potter's House*: We can learn about God's power to transform us from observing God's world. (Jeremiah 18)
- 4) *Holy Anger*: God gets angry – when the nation goes astray, when our capacity to blush is diminished.
- 5) *Holy Grief*: Our sin is too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Is there a balm in Gilead? (Jeremiah 8:18-9:1)
- 6) *Lament*: God can handle our grief and our anger. Great is God's Faithfulness. (Lamentations)
- 7) *Lies*: Just because someone says they speak for God doesn't mean it's the truth. (Jeremiah 28)
- 8) *Fear*: Hope is costly and must know how to play the long game. (Jeremiah 29:1-9)

Jeremiah 31:27-34 – From the Book of Comfort/Little Consolation (Jeremiah 30-33)

²⁷ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. ²⁸ And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the LORD. ²⁹ In those days they shall no longer say:

“The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.”

³⁰ But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: ***I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*** ³⁴ ***No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.***

2 Corinthians 5:14-19 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view;^[a] even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view,^[b] we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself,^[c] not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

New Covenant – sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins
Hebrews 8 & 9 – where it talks about Jesus as the new “and improved” covenant – I take issue with that. New doesn’t mean better – new happens over and over again.