

Next Weeks Lesson: "The Shepherds of Israel" (Ezekiel 18; 34; 37)

**Today's Lesson: "I Will Write It in Their Hearts" (Jeremiah 16; 23; 29; 31)**

**Jeremiah 16:10** "And it shall come to pass, when thou shalt shew this people all these words, and they shall say unto thee, <sup>a</sup>Wherefore hath the LORD pronounced all this great evil against us? or what *is* our iniquity? or what *is* our sin that we have committed against the LORD our God?"

**Jeremiah 16:12:** "And ye have done <sup>a</sup>worse than your <sup>b</sup>fathers; for, behold, ye walk every one after the <sup>c</sup>imagination of his evil heart, that they may not hearken unto me:"

**Question: What is this great sin that Jehovah is speaking of?** Here are some clues:

1. **Jeremiah 23:14** "I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit <sup>a</sup>adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his <sup>b</sup>wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah."
2. **Jeremiah 29:23** "Because they have committed <sup>a</sup>villany (*heb.* "Vile deeds") in Israel, and have committed <sup>b</sup>adultery with their neighbours' wives, and have spoken lying words in my name, which I have not commanded them; even I know, and *am* a witness, saith the LORD."
3. **Let's talk about these "vile deeds" which caused the Lord to say: "That's enough!"**

**Question:** What is the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah?

1. **Gen. 13:10-13** "And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where... Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other. Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and <sup>a</sup>Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched *his* tent toward Sodom."
2. **Gen. 18:20-19:14** The horrible scene while Abraham was in these wicked cities. (The imaginations of evil hearts)
3. **A discussion on the amazing power of pro-creation.**
  - a. The decision to extend the power of procreation to all mankind.
    - i. The animal world would be controlled by God himself.
    - ii. Human Beings would have the desire to procreate remain constant and "controllable".
    - iii. Accountability for controlling sexual urges would weigh heavy on being granted the power to procreate in the Celestial Kingdom.
4. Because of the perversions in the Old and New Testament times, it wasn't until we received the Book of Mormon that we understood the seriousness of the sin of adultery. **Alma 39:5** "Know ye not, my son, that these things are an abomination in the sight of the

Lord; yea, most <sup>a</sup>abominable above all sins save it be the shedding of innocent <sup>b</sup>blood or denying the Holy Ghost?"

5. **The difficulty in extending this right knowing the terrible consequence that would result:**

- |                                |                            |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. Fatherless children         | h. Aids                    |
| b. Divorce                     | i. Adultery                |
| c. Abortions                   | j. Sexual perversions      |
| d. Prostitution                | k. Entertainment / video's |
| e. Rape                        | l. Internet                |
| f. Homosexuality               | m. Teen-age pregnancy      |
| g. The focus on the human body | n. Child molestation       |

6. In **Jeremiah 23:14** we were told that: "they commit <sup>a</sup>adultery, and walk in lies: **they strengthen also the hands of evildoers...**"

- a. What could this statement mean?
- b. Are we guilty of this sin today? If so, how?

7. In **Jeremiah 16:12** the prophet speaks of the "imagination of our hearts". How does **Matt. 5:27-28** tie into this scripture?

8. Why does the committing of sexual sin gratify Satan so?

9. **D&C 121:45-46** offer some wonderful advice that should help all of us to remain sexually pure:

"Let thy <sup>a</sup>bowels also be full of charity towards all men, and to the household of faith, and let <sup>b</sup>virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then shall thy <sup>c</sup>confidence wax strong in the <sup>d</sup>presence of God; and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distil upon thy soul as the <sup>e</sup>dews from heaven. **The Holy Ghost shall be thy constant <sup>a</sup>companion**, and thy scepter an unchanging scepter of <sup>b</sup>righteousness and truth; and thy <sup>c</sup>dominion shall be an everlasting dominion, and without compulsory means it shall flow unto thee forever and ever."

10. **Jeremiah 31:33** "But this *shall be* the <sup>a</sup>covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, **I will put my <sup>b</sup>law in their inward parts, and write it in their <sup>c</sup>hearts**; and will be their God, and they shall be my people."

- a. I believe that almost all of us in this room have the law of chastity written deep in our hearts, but I fear that some of our children and grandchildren do not. Many of them will suffer through adultery, divorce, child abandonment and the additional sorrow that comes from sexual transgression.

**Question:** What can we do to help prevent them from these sorrows?

11. We should all be very grateful that the Lord has saved us to be born in the latter-days so that we can live in a time when we have prophets such as Gordon B. Hinckley who honor their covenants and encourage us to do the same. It certainly would have been difficult to remain true to our covenants if we had lived in the days of Jeremiah when even our "Prophets" were adulterers.