

# **My Struggle with God**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Jeremiah 7-10.

B. The tragedy of Judah is the tragedy of people today—when people forsake God they lose their own sense of worth.

C. If one struggles with his own self-worth, one will struggle with the worth of others as well.

D. The most baffling time as a Christian is when God acts contrary to expectation.

## II. God told Jeremiah to do two astonishing things.

A. He was not to intercede for the people in prayer because God would not hear those prayers. One does not expect that God would ask someone to stop praying for people.

B. He was to keep preaching to the people even though he was not to pray for them, and God promised that they would not listen to prayers for them.

## III. God challenged Judah by saying that their religious rituals were meaningless in light of their disobedience. (II Chronicles 34-35)

A. The people were counting on the Law and that the temple had been cleaned.

B. They were trusting in performance and outward ritual without realizing that God knows the heart.

C. All that was left for them to open their eyes was judgment.

## IV. What God does when a nation turns from Him.

A. He warns of the consequences.

B. He calls to awaken a response of love and gratitude.

C. Judgment is the final step—it is God's last desperate act to bring one back.

1. This is why God asks Jeremiah to preach but not pray.

2. Radical surgery was all that was left.

3. Prayer was to cease because prayer delays judgment.

## V. God reveals His greatness beyond that of man.

A. Man's wisdom is not enough—unlike God's it is partial.

B. Man's might is not enough—his force is only directed at material things.

C. Riches are limited in what they can buy, and they are deceitful giving someone a feeling of power, love and respect that is not true.

D. One ought to glorify in that he knows God and has access to His wisdom, might and riches.

**Application questions:**

1. What are God's two strange requests of Jeremiah? How does one explain them?

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2. What is the function of judgment? Is God's intent to punish?

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3. Have you ever experienced God's hand of discipline in your life? What did you learn? Do you think that you would have heard Him any other way? Explain.

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