

The Manifest Presence of God A Place called There

Introduction:

1. The Book of Jeremiah, second of the Major Prophets, and derives its name from the prophet Jeremiah who lived in Anathoth, on the outskirts of Jerusalem.
2. The message of Jeremiah was a call to moral reform
3. The book reveals his inner conflict as he struggles to surrender himself to God.
4. I want to speak with you about a **Place called There**
5. **Jeremiah 18: 1-6** *"The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and THERE I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and There he was working at his wheel. 4And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do. Then the word of the Lord came to me: "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? declares the Lord. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel."*

The Lessons:

1. We are the clay.
2. Jeremiah learned at the potter's house that God had sovereign control
3. But why have him go to some other place to then speak to him?
4. It must have been extremely important for God to insist that Jeremiah to the potter's house to speak to him there
5. In the scriptures *this place* was where the Potter's House is mentioned
6. I could not find one good thing about **this place called There**
7. So where and what is this place called there?
 - **Jeremiah 19** -it is located in what is called the Valley of Ben Hinnon
 - Identified as Tophet and in **Jeremiah 7** God speaks about it and says **"you built the high places to Tophet**. This word means place of fire and the word of God tells us that the children of Israel sacrificed their children on Tophet
 - To summarize it was -
 - a place of the slaughter of the innocence,
 - a place of fire,
 - a place of betrayal,
 - a foreign place
 - a place of broken pieces
 - a place of pain and disappointment

The Message for us:

1. And so I began to think through what God was saying to Jeremiah
2. We are called to serve a Christ who heals the broken hearted and many times we are just functioning broken hearted lost in the Valley of Ben Hinnon, trying to understand the Kingdom of God

Smoldering in the Valley:

1. **James 3:5-6** *"the tongue is the smallest member in our body and oh see what a great fire it can kindle and it is able to set on fire the whole course of our life and it (the tongue) is set on fire by hell (Gehenna)"*
2. What happens in the Valley of Hinnon gives birth to the pain in our lives

3. That pain creates a smoldering festering place that erupts out of our mouth
4. The pain that comes from being in the Valley of Ben Hinnon lights the fire
5. Unfortunately wounded people wound
6. *Ephesians 4:29 says "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear"*
7. When God meets us in the Valley of Benn Hinnon it is there He will rework us

There He was:

1. There is no place that is too dirty that He won't go
2. ***"And the pot that He was working with was marred in His hands"***
3. Some of you that are in here have been marred in the potter's hands
4. God says: *I do with you as the Potter does with his clay – do I have permission to be Lord of your pain – can I come into that place in your life?*
5. *God says "I love you – in that pain – in that loss – that rejection – that shame - in that place can I be the Lord over that issue?"*
6. If you will do this, He will get you through this time – He will remake you

Our Response:

1. ***1Kings 17:2-4 "And the word of the Lord came to him: 3 "Depart from here and turn eastward and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. 4 You shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there."***
2. It was **there** that God had already commanded the ravens to feed him
3. Each of us has a place called **"THERE,"** where the blessings of the Lord are
4. ***1 Kings 17:8-9 "And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongs to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain you"***
5. ***1 Kings 19:9-13 "There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 10 He said, "I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." 11 And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. 12 And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. 13 And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"***

Release and wholeness:

1. For if there were ever a people who were mourning it is those that have said – ***"God how long will we hold on to the promises of God without that rejection – seeing the manifestation and hearing the word?"***
2. There are people the Lord has spoken to you to today