



October 28, 2018
"A Serious Wound"
Jeremiah 6
Pastor Gary Hamrick

There's a lot of evil in our world. Everyone sees the evidence of evil, but oftentimes, we detach ourselves from the evil in the world and quietly, subconsciously whisper to ourselves that we are better than all of the "bad guys" in the world. The truth is, we are all "bad guys." There is only one Good Guy and he died for all the bad guys and girls in the world - Jesus Christ! Only through him can we receive forgiveness and receive a new heart and a new life. Mankind is not the solution to mankind's problem; Jesus is to the solution! In this message, Pastor Gary tackles the uncomfortable topic of sin in our world and how we all stand guilty before a holy God. Fortunately for us, that same holy, perfect God sent his son, Jesus, into the world to make us righteous before God through faith in Jesus Christ. Our hope, forgiveness, and peace are found in Christ alone!

Historical Background

1. The people of Judah picked up the concept of worshiping idols and false gods from the people of neighboring nations, and in doing so, they seemed to have no idea about the depth of their sin and depravity, and the severity of the coming judgment of God.
 - a. **Jeremiah 3:9** - *"Because Israel's immorality mattered so little to her, she defiled the land and committed adultery with stone and wood."*
 - b. **Jeremiah 3:20** - *" 'But like a woman unfaithful to her husband, so you have been unfaithful to me, O house of Israel.' Declares the LORD."*
 - c. **Jeremiah 5:19** - *"And when the people ask, 'Why has the LORD our God done all this to us?' you will tell them, 'As you have forsaken me and served foreign gods in your own land, so now you will serve foreigners in a land not your own.' "*
2. **Jeremiah 4:5-6** - *"Announce in Judah and proclaim in Jerusalem and say: 'Sound the trumpet throughout the land!' Cry aloud and say: 'Gather together! Let us flee*

to the fortified cities!’ Raise the signal to go to Zion! Flee for safety without delay! For I am bringing disaster from the north, even terrible destruction.”

- a. God used the Babylonians, who came through Syria, and invaded from the north, just like Jeremiah prophesied.
- b. About 125 years before Jeremiah, in 722BC, the northern kingdom of Israel was conquered by the Assyrians, who were the dominating world power at the time.
- c. The people of Judah had a greater responsibility and were more accountable for their sin and rebellion because they had witnessed what happened to the people of the northern kingdom of Israel.
- d. Babylon, which at one time was called Mesopotamia, was located between the Tigris River and Euphrates River, and the capital city was Babylonia.
- e. The conquest of Judah started in 606BC and culminated in 586BC.

3. Jeremiah referred to Babylon or mentioned Babylon by name 164 times!

4. Judgment from God was coming in the form of the Babylonian army, but the people of Judah stubbornly refused to heed the warning.

- a. **Jeremiah 6:10** - *“To whom can I speak and give warning? Who will listen to me? Their ears are closed so they cannot hear. The word of the LORD is offensive to them; they find no pleasure in it.”*

5. **Jeremiah 6:13-15** - *“From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain; prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit. They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. ‘Peace, peace,’ they say, when there is no peace. Are they ashamed of their loathsome conduct? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush. So they will fall among the fallen; they will be brought down when I punish them,” says the LORD.”*

- a. Pastor Gary said: “[Things were] so bad, that even the spiritual leaders, prophets, and priests among them, [were] deceiving the people and [gave] them a false sense of security. These false prophets and these deceiving priests were going around telling people, ‘It’s no big deal. Our sin is not as bad as people are making it out to be. Peace, peace, love, harmony, it’s all good!’ ... [They didn’t tell the people what they really needed to hear]. ... I think this problem still plagues some, if not many, churches today. There’s a lot of ‘feel good gospel’ out there. [There are] pastors who are telling their congregations what [they] want to hear, instead of what [they] need to hear. And what we all need to hear is that we all have a serious wound called sin, and we all need a trauma center now! [The] only physician who can save us is Jesus. ... We must take sin seriously, and [that] begins with our own hearts.”

6. Pastor Gary said: “It’s common for people today to incorrectly think that the evil of mankind can be solved by the good of mankind. ... Evil in this world will only be held at bay as long as bad people exercise some form of self-restraint. [The] moment they decide to no longer be restrained, is the moment when, literally, all hell breaks loose. [This] is why we are all wondering when the next ‘shoe will drop.’ What [school, church, campus, movie theater, outdoor concert, military base, workplace] is safe? We don’t know anymore... The problem is not what [kind of weapon is in] someone’s hand. The problem is what is in someone’s heart. It’s a heart issue! Mankind is not the solution to mankind’s problem; Jesus is. [The] disconnect for most people [is that they] tend to quietly, subconsciously say to [themselves], ‘I’m not as bad as that guy...’
7. God’s perspective on our righteousness is very much different from the idea that comparing ourselves to others to make sure we are better than the next person, because God views everyone the same way.
- a. **Romans 3:10** – *“There is no one righteous, not even one.”*
 - b. **Psalm 51:5** – *“Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.”*
8. It’s not the external that makes us right with God; it’s the internal!
- a. **Mark 7:20-21** – *“[Jesus] went on: ‘What comes out of a man is what makes him “unclean.” For from within, out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man “unclean.” ”*
 - b. In Matthew 5 – 7, Jesus emphasized the fact that the heart was the issue.
 - i. **Matthew 5:21-22** – *“ ‘You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, “Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.” But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, ‘Raca,’¹ is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, ‘You fool!’² will be in danger of the fire of hell.”*
 1. Jesus quoted the sixth Commandment.
 2. Jesus was saying that murdering someone with words is just as guilty as someone who literally murders another person, and it’s wrong if you are killing people in your heart.
 - ii. **Matthew 5:27** – *“You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”*
 1. Jesus quoted the seventh Commandment.

¹ The meaning of the Aramaic word *raca*, is a senseless, empty-headed man.

² The Greek word for fool, is *moros*, which is where we get the English word *moron*.

2. Pastor Gary said: “So, you’re not off the hook if you actually haven’t committed adultery, because, if you’ve committed lust in your heart [that’s the same thing] to God... and it’s offensive to him. [God] always brings it down to the heart.”

Jesus Anointed By A Sinful Woman

9. Pastor Gary read [Luke 7:36-50](#), and he shared a summary of the account of Jesus, a Pharisee, and a prostitute.
 - a. Simon was a Pharisee, which was a Jewish sect that was extremely separatist and legalistic,
 - b. A “sinful woman,” who was most certainly an uninvited guest, entered Simon’s home and came straight to Jesus.
 - c. This woman came because she was broken by her own sinfulness, and she knew that Jesus was the only one who could help.
 - d. She poured out the contents of an alabaster jar of perfume on Jesus’ feet and she wiped his feet with her hair.
 - e. Simon thought to himself, “If Jesus was really a prophet, he would know who this woman is, and he wouldn’t let her near him, much less allow her to touch him!”
 - f. Upon seeing Simon’s reaction, Jesus told a parable about a moneylender who forgave the debt of two men; one who owed the equivalent of about 500 day’s salary and one who owed the equivalent of about 50 day’s salary.
 - g. Simon told Jesus the one who was forgiven the greatest debt was the one who had the greatest love for the moneylender.
 - h. The point of Jesus’ parable was that this woman recognized that her sin was great, which explained the demonstration of great love for the Lord, and she knew that she needed his forgiveness.
 - i. [Luke 7:48-50](#) - *“Then Jesus said to her, ‘Your sins are forgiven.’ The other guests began to say among themselves, ‘Who is this who even forgives sins?’ Jesus said to the woman, ‘Your faith has saved you; go in peace.’ ”*
 - j. Pastor Gary said: “[She left with greater peace.] But, Simon on the other hand, just stood there and didn’t get any benefit from [what he had heard and seen], except a good lesson from Jesus. You have two people in this story, the woman who was the prostitute and the man who was the religious Pharisee. Only one left with greater peace. Simon had a knack for seeing the sins of other people, but not so much the sin of his own heart. She, on the other hand, saw her sin and knew her need for a Savior. [She] humbled herself and received forgiveness and peace. Which one are you in this story?”

Discussion Questions

1. Read [Jeremiah 6: 13-15](#) to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. Read the Scriptures and talk about the lack of understanding the people of Judah had concerning the severity of their sin. (See #1 above)
3. Allow the people in your group to share their experiences about the times they disregarded the conviction of the Holy Spirit. (See #2 above)
4. Read [Jeremiah 6:13-15](#) and Pastor Gary's remarks about the danger many churches and congregations are in today. (See #5 above)
5. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comments the fact that the evil we see in our world will never be fixed by mankind. (See #6 and #7)
6. Read and discuss [Mark 7:20-21](#), and [Matthew 5:21 -22, 27](#). (See #8 above)
7. How has the Holy Spirit changed your heart and the "internal you"?
8. Read and discuss [Luke 7:36-50](#). (See #9 above)
9. Spend time talking about Pastor Gary's comments about why the woman, not self-righteous Simon, was the one who left with forgiveness, salvation, and peace. (See #9k above)
10. Close your time in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).