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“Don’t ‘Wine’ About It”

Jeremiah 48

Pastor Gary Hamrick

In Jeremiah 48, God used a wine analogy to describe three major objections he had to the spiritual condition of the nation of Moab. He challenged them about how they were too much at rest, how they had settled on their dregs, and how they had lost their aroma. In this message, Pastor Gary helps us understand how God’s rebuke of the Moabites should challenge us in our walk with Christ.

Historical Background

1. The first 45 chapters of the book of Jeremiah concern the people of Judah, but God’s attention turns to the neighboring nations in the succeeding chapters.
 - a. Pastor Gary said: “[The neighboring nations] played a large role in the Jewish peoples’ [spiritual decline]. The Jewish people started to adopt the pagan gods of the Gentile nations around them, and the Jewish people started to worship the pagan gods of the Gentile nations around them, so God’s got something to say to the Gentile nations!”
 - b. The list of nations includes: Egypt, Philistines (not extant today), Moab (central region of Jordan – east of the Jordan River) , Ammon (the northern region of Jordan), Edom (southern part of Jordan), Damascus, Kedar (parts of Saudi Arabia), Hazor (a region north of the Sea of Galilee, on the border with Syria), Elam (southern Iran), and Babylon.

2. [Jeremiah 48:11](#) – *“Moab has been at **rest** from youth, like wine left on its **dregs**, not poured from one jar to another – she has not gone into exile. So she tastes as she did, and her **aroma** is unchanged.”* (Emphasis added)

Jeremiah 48:11 Warns Against A Sedentary Christian Life

3. Pastor Gary said: “God [indicted] these people because they had been spiritually lazy. He [indicted] them for being apathetic and unmotivated about the things of God. [They didn’t have] any real zeal for God or fervor for the things of God. ... They had been too sedentary.”
 - a. **Jeremiah 48:10a** - *“A curse on him who is lax in doing the LORD’s work!”*

4. Zephaniah was a contemporary of Jeremiah, who also ministered to the people of Judah.
 - a. **Zephaniah 1:12** - *“At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs...”* ”

5. Pastor Gary said: “[Unfortunately,] too many Christians are content to coast. There are people who love Jesus, they have had a relationship with him, but they are otherwise not engaged. They are apathetic. They are complacent about the things of God. They are indifferent about doing the Lord’s work. [We live in a time] when we cannot afford to be apathetic. Christians [must really] be engaged and step it up and be a part of our world and our culture and make a difference.”

6. Four Simple Ways We Can “Do The Lord’s Work”
 - a. Raising Our Families
 - i. The Lord’s work begins in the home.
 - ii. Husbands and wives need to honor God in their marriage and live out their faith together.
 - iii. Parents need to read the Bible and pray with their children.
 - iv. Parents need to help their children by teaching them a biblical worldview.
 - v. Parents need to teach their children about Jesus, salvation, biblical truth, etc.
 - vi. Pastor Gary said: “Your home is your most important ministry. Your family is your priority in terms of where the Lord’s work starts. If it doesn’t start there, where will it start? ... We’ve got to be intentional about this, because there is [an] ongoing battle to capture the hearts and minds of [our] kids, so we have to be intentional about this as parents... to influence them in the ways of the Lord, with the Word of the Lord.”
 - b. Influencing Our Society
 - i. Pastor Gary said: “One of the major avenues for Christians today to influence our society is through the political process. ... People who don’t share our values are wise about using the political process to advance their agenda in our nation. ... They are relentless about using

the legal system to promote their ideas, and if we as Christians are complacent and silent, we will end up with a nation that neither honors God nor resembles anything that our Founding Fathers had in mind when this nation was started. Twenty-nine out of fifty-six of our Founding Fathers who signed the Declaration of Independence... had seminary or Bible school degrees. [They] understood that Christianity would shape their understanding of the formation of this nation. Our nation was founded, [predominantly, by] Christian men, with Christian influence, to bring about a nation that would be founded on the Word of God to bring glory to God. The Founders who signed the Declaration of Independence acknowledged God at the beginning of the declaration [that] we are all endowed with certain unalienable rights by our Creator. [At] the end of the declaration they signed with the words, ‘a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence.’¹ They were creating a country with the freedom of religion; not the freedom from religion, which is unfortunately where we are trending today. [Although] all religions are welcome to be freely practiced here, it was the Christian faith that became the basis for our laws and government. ... The Founding Fathers substantiated ideas, based on the Bible, for things like the separation of powers [from [Jeremiah 17:9](#)]. ... They substantiated the three branches of government from [Isaiah 33:22](#). ... They got the idea of tax exemption for churches from [Ezra 7:24](#). ... [Today, many Christians have] been brainwashed into thinking that politics has no place in the church or the church has no place in politics, [so] that Christians have become downright naïve and passive about the way that our communities and our country is being hijacked by the progressive agenda that is completely contrary to God. I’m not suggesting that by influencing our society, in terms of the political process, that somehow then government will solve the problem of our social ills. Government is not the solution; the Gospel is [the solution]! Government is not the Savior; Jesus is! ... We can affect how much God is the Lord of our nation by how much Christians are involved in [the] process. ... Why should we abdicate our moral responsibility by denying God’s rightful place in our [homes], in our churches, and in our government?”

1. [Jeremiah 17:9](#) - *“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?”*
2. [Isaiah 33:22](#) - *“For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; it is he who will save us.”*
3. [Ezra 7:24](#) - *“You are also to know that you have no authority to impose taxes, tribute or duty on any of the priest, Levites,*

¹ <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript>

singers, gatekeepers, temple servants or other workers at this house of God.”

4. **Psalm 33:12** - *“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD...”*

c. Sharing Our Faith

i. Pastor Gary said: “People might take issue with the topic of Jesus and the topic of Christianity, but out of an ounce of respect, they will at least listen to your story. And you can at least tell people what Jesus Christ has done for you. And you can at least be a living testimony of the transforming power of Jesus Christ. And you can share with people... how he’s changed you. ... Hopefully, our lives are lived in such a way that Christ is contagious in us! ... Do enough where you are planting the seed and sharing the Gospel and talking about your faith [and] being salt and light in our world... We need to do the Lord’s work. This is no time to be sedentary. Time is short. Time is short! Our world is getting crazier by the minute, and more confusing by the minute. [So] we have to be vessels that God [can] use to share about him and to testify about his goodness and his grace in our lives.”

1. **1 Peter 2:12** - *“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.”*

2. **1 Peter 3:15** - *“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...”*

d. Engaging Our Culture

i. People in our culture are confused, and they are searching for answers to the big questions in life.

ii. Pastor Gary provided an overview of the Pew Research Center survey of 1,000 teens (13 to 17), that was published in February 2019. ²

1. 45% - Alcohol is a major problem

2. 51% - Drug addiction is a major problem

3. 55% - Bullying is a major problem

4. 70% - Anxiety and depression is the number one issue

iii. Pastor Gary said: “Our generation is asking valid questions that they want to know answers to. ... [Today,] the Gen X’ers and the Millennials, are wanting [for somebody to just tell them the truth]. ... We need to [be] relevant and relational with the people who need the answers that you and I have, because the answer is in Jesus.”

1. **John 10:10** - *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*

² <https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2019/02/20/most-u-s-teens-see-anxiety-and-depression-as-a-major-problem-among-their-peers/>

2. [Matthew 11:28](#) - *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”*

Jeremiah 48:11 Warns Against Sediment In A Christian’s Life

7. Dregs are the sediment/debris that falls to the bottom of a bottle of wine.
8. The only way to keep the wine as clean as possible would be to pour it from bottle to bottle, while trying to not disturb the sediment.
9. God’s charge against the Moabites was that they never dealt with the sediment and debris.
10. Pastor Gary said: “This is all very symbolic. This is why it’s important that we as Christians deal with the sediment in our lives. [Sediment] is a picture [of sin], and all of the junk that we’ve allowed to stay in our lives. [God wants us to deal with it, he doesn’t want us to give place to those things, he wants us to get rid of them.] ... The filtration process for us today is confession and repentance. It’s giving it to God. It’s turning from [sin]. It’s saying, ‘Lord, I don’t want this junk in my life. I don’t want to harbor sin. I want [sin] to be filtered out.’ ”
 - a. [Psalm 51:2](#) - *“Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.”*
 - b. [1 John 1:9](#) - *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”*

Jeremiah 48:11 Warns Against A Christian Life That Has No Scent

11. God’s charge against Moab was that they were like wine without scent, and to wine connoisseurs, the bouquet is extremely important.
12. [2 Corinthians 2:15-16a](#) - *“For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life.”*
13. Pastor Gary said: “When you walk in the room, as a Christian, can people smell the fragrance of Christ? ... I want [us] to spread the fragrance of Christ wherever [we] go, so that in a similar way, when people are around us, they might catch the scent of a God who loves them and a Christ who died for them.”

Discussion Questions

1. Read [Jeremiah 48:9-13](#) to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. Read and discuss Pastor Gary’s remarks about the tendency for many Christians

to be content with “coasting.” (See #4 and #5 above)

3. What are some of the characteristics of a sedentary Christian life?
4. What are some of the ways the Holy Spirit has helped you understand your gifting and what you are being called to do, so that you don't live a “coasting Christian” life?
5. How are you prioritizing your life so that your home is your most important ministry? (See #6a above)
6. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comments and the Scriptures he shared, concerning influencing our society. (See #6b above)
7. Allow the people in your group to share examples of the ways they are sharing their faith with others. (See #6c above)
8. Read and discuss [1 Peter 2:12](#) and [1 Peter 3:15](#).
9. How engaged are you in the culture when it comes to having a basic understanding of the trends, problems, etc.? (See #6d above)
10. What are some of the ways you believe the Lord would have you become more engaged?
11. Spend time talking about Pastor Gary's comments about the symbolism of dregs and sin. (See #7 through #10 above)
12. Read and discuss [Psalm 51:2](#) and [1 John 1:9](#).
13. How is the Holy Spirit helping you deal with the “dregs” in your life?
14. Read and discuss [2 Corinthians 2:15-16a](#).
15. Allow the people in your group to share their thoughts about the ways the aroma of Christ is evidenced in their life. (See #11 through #13 above)
16. Close your time in prayer and allow the Holy Spirit to lead your time of prayer.

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