

Jeremiah 5:1–31 — “Seeking One True Heart”

1) Looking for One Truth-Seeker (Jeremiah 5:1–2)

“Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem... seek in her open places if you can find a man, if there is anyone who executes judgment, who seeks the truth, and I will pardon her. Though they say, ‘As the Lord lives,’ surely they swear falsely.” — Jeremiah 5:1–2

God scans a city awash in religious words but empty of integrity. One honest, justice-seeking person would stay judgment. The problem is not vocabulary; it is truth in the inward parts.

Application: Let your “As the Lord lives” be more than jargon. Choose truth when it costs you.

2) Resistant to Correction (Jeremiah 5:3–6)

“O Lord, are not Your eyes on the truth? You have stricken them, but they have not grieved... they have made their faces harder than rock... I will go to the great men... but these have altogether broken the yoke and burst the bonds.” — Jeremiah 5:3–5

Pain did not soften them; privilege did not humble them. From the poor to the powerful, hearts resisted correction. The result? Predators at the gate (lion, wolf, leopard)—a picture of inescapable consequences (Jeremiah 5:6).

Application: When God’s discipline arrives, yield quickly. The humble learn fast; the hard learn the hard way.

3) Full Stomachs, Empty Vows (Jeremiah 5:7–9)

“How shall I pardon you for this? Your children have forsaken Me... When I had fed them to the full, then they committed adultery... everyone neighed after his neighbor’s wife. Shall I not punish them...?” — Jeremiah 5:7–9

God’s gifts became fuel for sin. Prosperity without gratitude turned worshipers into consumers—and covenant into convenience.

Application: Every blessing is a summons to fidelity, not a permission slip for compromise.

4) False Security and Hollow Preaching (Jeremiah 5:10–13)

“For the house of Israel and the house of Judah have dealt very treacherously with Me... They have lied about the Lord, and said, ‘It is not He. Neither will evil come upon us...’ And the prophets become wind, for the word is not in them.” — Jeremiah 5:11–13

A soothing message replaced a true message: *No judgment, no famine, no sword.* But God promises to make His true word like fire in Jeremiah’s mouth (Jeremiah 5:14).

Application: Measure every message by Scripture, not by how it makes you feel. Comfort without truth is cruelty.

5) The Nation from Afar (Jeremiah 5:14–19)

“Behold, I will bring a nation against you from afar... an ancient nation... whose language you do not know... They shall eat up your harvest... your flocks... your vines... Nevertheless in those days... I will not make a complete end of you.” — Jeremiah 5:15–18

God uses a foreign power as His instrument of discipline, yet He preserves a remnant. Mercy and judgment are not rivals; they meet in the heart of God.

“As you have forsaken Me... so you shall serve aliens in a land that is not yours.” — Jeremiah 5:19

Application: The master you choose is the master you serve. Forsake idols now, or serve them later in bondage.

6) Forgetting the Fear of the Lord (Jeremiah 5:20–25)

“Do you not fear Me?... I have placed the sand as the bound of the sea... and though its waves toss... they cannot prevail... But this people has a defiant and rebellious heart... They do not say in their heart, ‘Let us now fear the Lord our God, who gives rain... and reserves... the weeks of the harvest.’ Your iniquities have turned these things away, and your sins have withheld good from you.” — Jeremiah 5:22–25

Creation obeys God’s decree; His people do not. Sin becomes a **blockade** to blessing—not because God is stingy, but because we step out from under His good order.

Application: Keep yourself in the place where God’s love can freely bless you—through repentance, obedience, and gratitude.

7) Traps, Fat Purses, Thin Justice (Jeremiah 5:26–29)

“Among My people are found wicked men; they lie in wait as one who sets snares... their houses are full of deceit; therefore they have become great and grown rich... They do not defend the cause of the fatherless... Shall I not punish them...?” — Jeremiah 5:26–29

Economic success cloaked moral rot. God weighs a society by how it treats the vulnerable.

Application: Advocate for the fatherless and needy. Mercy is not optional; it is covenant faithfulness lived out.

8) An Amazing and Horrible Thing (Jeremiah 5:30–31)

“An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land: The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power; and My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?” — Jeremiah 5:30–31

Corrupt pulpits, self-serving leaders—and a populace that prefers pleasant lies to piercing truth. The haunting question remains: “What will you do in the end?”

Application: Do not love to have it so. Choose faithful preaching, accountable leadership, and a conscience tender to God.

Practical Application

1. Seek truth at all costs (Jeremiah 5:1–2): Let integrity shape your yes and no.
2. Respond to correction quickly (Jeremiah 5:3–6): Welcome God’s discipline as a gift.
3. Turn blessings into worship, not indulgence (Jeremiah 5:7–9).
4. Weigh messages by Scripture (Jeremiah 5:11–14): Fire-tested truth over breeze-blown words.
5. Reverence the Lord daily (Jeremiah 5:22–25): Recover awe—pray before plans, thank before tasks.
6. Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly (Jeremiah 5:26–29; see Micah 6:8).

A Challenge to Believers

- From phrases to faithfulness: Make “As the Lord lives” match how you live.
- From comfort to conviction: Prefer hard truth that heals over soft lies that rot.
- From spectators to servants: Defend the weak; practice generous justice.
- From drift to devotion: Reclaim holy fear; live under the smile and standard of God.

Seven-Day Focus: Each day, act on one conviction from Jeremiah 5—make one restitution, one truth-telling, one mercy, one obedience you’ve delayed.

An Invitation to Non-Believers

God is not hunting for eloquent promises but for a true heart. We have all sinned and resisted correction, but God has acted in mercy: Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose again so we could be forgiven, cleansed, and made new. You cannot save yourself with phrases or performance. But you can come.

“Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” — Romans 10:13

If you are ready to turn from sin and trust Jesus:

*“Lord Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God.
You died for my sins and rose again.
I turn from my sin and come to You.
Forgive me, cleanse me, and make me new.
Be my Savior and my Lord.
Teach me to walk in Your truth from this day forward.
In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*

Tell a mature believer, be baptized in water, and join a Bible-teaching study group. God is still seeking **one** who will seek truth—let it be you.