

## 2020.12.13 Sunday Sermon <God Loves Us Again>

### **Jeremiah 31:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> *"At that time," declares the Lord, "I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be my people."*

<sup>2</sup> *This is what the Lord says: "The people who survive the sword will find favor in the wilderness; I will come to give rest to Israel."*

<sup>3</sup> *The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness."*

<sup>4</sup> *I will build you up again, and you, Virgin Israel, will be rebuilt. Again you will take up your tambourines and go out to dance with the joyful."*

<sup>5</sup> *Again you will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria; the farmers will plant them and enjoy their fruit."*

<sup>6</sup> *There will be a day when watchmen cry out on the hills of Ephraim, 'Come, let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God.'"*

Let us start with sharing an image of a desert. When seeing an image of desert/wilderness, I think of the words *endless, barren, fear, despair, give-up...* When Israelites were going through difficult time in the wilderness, the Lord reached out to them with these words in Jeremiah 31:2 - *"The people who survive the sword will find favor in the wilderness; I will come to give rest to Israel."* Just as the Lord loved the Israelites again and again, the Lord loves us. Let us learn more about Our Father's love.

### **1. His Love Restores Us**

His Love Makes Us Dance Again - Israelites were tired and without energy, and through His love they were able to restore their souls and lives.

- **Jeremiah 31: 4**

<sup>4</sup> *I will build you up again, and you, Virgin Israel, will be rebuilt. Again you will take up your tambourines and go out to dance with the joyful."*

- **Jeremiah 31:13**

<sup>13</sup> *Then young women will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow."*

His Love Makes Us Full Again - Israelites were hungry, and through His love they were able to restore and end their hunger.

- **Jeremiah 31:5**

<sup>5</sup> *Again you will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria; the farmers will plant them and enjoy their fruit."*

- **Jeremiah 31: 12b**

<sup>12b</sup> *they will rejoice in the bounty of the Lord—the grain, the new wine and the olive oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more."*

His Love Makes Us Worship Again - Israelites were lost in the endless desert, and through His love they were able to wake up and give worship to the Lord.

- **Jeremiah 31:6**

<sup>6</sup> *There will be a day when watchmen cry out on the hills of Ephraim, 'Come, let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God.'"*

- **Jeremiah 31: 12a**

<sup>12a</sup> *They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion;*

Just as He showed His love to the Israelites again and again, Our Lord is sending the same message to all of us. Let us pray and worship like the Israelites.

## 2. His Love is Everlasting

Lord will provide us with love again and again - remember His love is everlasting and faithful

- **Jeremiah 31:3**  
<sup>3</sup> *The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.*
- As we sin again and again...others may give up on us, but the Lord will show His everlasting love and never give up on us. We are children of God and He will not let go of us.

Story of Mother with AIDS -

A young girl came to the pastor and asked if he could meet her mother. She wanted her mother to meet Jesus before she faces death due to AIDS. The pastor visited the mother but she did not welcome him. He asked about a photo that was hung on her cabinet. She said it was her only daughter. The pastor then asked the mother, "If your daughter lived a wild life and came back with horrible disease will you let go of her? You are the Lord's daughter. If you repent and come back to Him, He will forgive and love you again and again."

If you are currently walking in a desert - remember the Lord is with you and loves you. Others may give up on you, but the Lord keeps you and loves you no matter what.

## 3. His Love is Fatherly Love

Our Lord is Our Father - He loves us so much that He sent His Son to die on the cross to wash away our sins.

- **Jeremiah 31:1**  
<sup>1</sup> *"At that time," declares the Lord, "I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be my people."*
- **Jeremiah 31:9**  
<sup>9</sup> *They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back. I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble, because I am Israel's father, and Ephraim is my firstborn son.*
- **Jeremiah 31:20**  
<sup>20</sup> *Is not Ephraim my dear son, the child in whom I delight? Though I often speak against him, I still remember him. Therefore my heart yearns for him; I have great compassion for him," declares the Lord.*

Story of Father and Son -

This was a story that was shared by a pastor during Sunday sermon:

*There was a small village near the sea. A son and his friend were out in the sea, and all of sudden the wave became stronger and the boat was in danger. The father who was a lighthouse keeper came to rescue but he could only save one person. The father said to the son, "My son you believe in Jesus Christ, so you will enter the Lord's Heaven. Yet, your friend does not believe in Jesus Christ." The son looked at his father and knew what he meant. The son smiled and said, "Father - I will meet you in Heaven." As the father saved the son's friend and returned home...he couldn't stop crying.*

As the pastor ended his sermon, a small group of young congregation members started to talk and said the story couldn't be true. A grandfather sitting behind them said, "The story is true...I am the lighthouse keeper and the pastor who delivered the sermon is my son's friend."

My sisters and brothers, do you believe the Lord sent His one and only Son to save us? You must believe.

**In Summary:**

Our Lord Father loves us again and again.

1. His Love Restores Us
2. His Love is Everlasting
3. His Love is a Fatherly Love

**Prayer:**

*I cannot tell thee whence it came,  
This peace within my breast;  
But this I know, there fills my soul  
A strange and tranquil rest.*

*There's a deep, settled peace in my soul,  
There's a deep, settled peace in my soul,  
Tho' the billows of sin near me roll,  
He abides, Christ abides.*

*Beneath the toil and care of life,  
This hidden stream flows on;  
My weary soul no longer thirsts,  
Nor am I sad and lone.*

If you are walking in the wilderness, trust in the Lord Our Father. He will show His love again and again. His Love will restore our spirits and bodies.