**BCM Bible Study – November 8/9, 2017**

**Jeremiah: Nothing is Too Hard for God (32-33)**

Jeremiah’s Land Purchase: **Read Jeremiah 32:1-2, 6-15**

* What is the setting of these verses?
* What does God tell Jeremiah to do? Why is this such a foolish-looking action?
* According to verse 15, what is the meaning of what God has told Jeremiah to do?
  + In what way is Jeremiah’s action an example of living by faith?
  + How does God call you to live by faith today? In what way to do have to take God at his word when the given situation may lead you to act otherwise? Does it ever make you look foolish?
* **Read Jeremiah 32:16-27**
  + Why was it likely hard for Jeremiah to believe that God would do what he said?
  + According to this passage, what encouraged Jeremiah to live by faith despite the circumstances?
    - What have you learned about the character of God by means of his actions in the world and in your life?
    - In what way has/should this empower you to live by faith?
    - Is there an area of your life about which you want to believe Jeremiah’s statement of faith in verse 17 (“Nothing is too hard for you.”)?
* In verses 28-35, God recounts the reasons for Judah’s destruction (disobedience). Knowing that, **Read Jeremiah 32:36-44.**
  + What glimpses of the new covenant from Jeremiah 31 do you see in this passage? See Jeremiah 31:31-40 if you want to review and compare.
  + One of the most powerful verses in this section is v.38.
    - According to the following verses, what does each half of this statement mean? That Israel is God’s people? And God is theirs?
    - Have you seen any of these things come to be in your life as you have grown in faith?
    - In what way does Israel experience the fulfillment of this promise?
    - **Read Revelation 21:1-5.**
      * What do these verses tell us about the ultimate fulfillment of God’s new covenant promise?
      * What most excites you about this? In what way do you yearn to be free from the bondage of sin and be restored to God’s design?
* **Read Jeremiah 33:1-9**
  + These verses portray a surprising turn of events as God restores Judah. Consider this quote: *“….The really hard thing is to bring salvation out of destruction. That, however, is just what [God] plans to do*.” (New Bible Commentary)
    - What about your brokenness makes it hard to believe that God could restore and save you? Why is it so hard to believe?
    - In what way does this passage give you hope?

The Unbreakable Promises of God: **Read Jeremiah 33:14-26**

* Recall that you have heard this language before: **Read Jeremiah 23:5-6.**
  + What do you know about the Davidic covenant? Why is it so important? To look at the covenant, read **2 Samuel 7:11b-15.**
* Note that in verses 17-18, God says that the branch of David will be both king and priest.
  + **Read Luke 1:29-33.** How does the image of ‘king’ enrich your image of who Jesus is and his purposes on earth?
    - How have you seen Jesus’ kingdom come to be in and through your life?
  + **Read Exodus 29:42-46.** In ancient Israel, what was the role of the priest? (Answer: to mediate the presence of God with his people by atoning for sins)
  + **Read Hebrews 4:14-16.** How does the image of ‘priest’ enrich your image of who Jesus is and his purposes on earth?
    - According to this passage, why is Jesus the perfect high priest? What does he offer that human priests cannot?
    - Often, we run from God when we sin, but this passage says that he is our very source of help because he experienced temptation without sin. Do you find that you run to or from God when you sin? What is your experience with either reaction?
* What image does God use to establish the permanency of his covenant? Why is the image so powerful?
  + Do you ever doubt that Jesus is still on the throne and in control? What brings about these feelings and doubts?
  + In what way are your actions and outlook shaped by knowing that Jesus is serving in these roles (king and priest) and that he will do so forever?

Conclusion: Questions for group discussion:

* What parts of you do you feel are most unworthy of God’s love? How has today’s discussion encouraged you to that end?
* What causes you doubt, anxiety, or despair? How does the reality of Jesus as king and priest change the way you can face these struggles?