



Let Your Heart Be Broken (Jeremiah 8:4-13, 9:1)

1. As you read our Scripture verses today, which themes or words particularly challenge or surprise you? Why? You may want to read the whole of chapter 8 if you have time.
2. What do you make of emotions in Jeremiah 9:1? Does this sound like an appropriate or typical reaction from an Old Testament prophet? Compare and contrast to other Old Testament prophets you know the stories of.
3. Why is Jeremiah so broken-hearted?
4. Are there any issues which break your heart today? Have you ever wept over any of them? Why? Why not?
5. Is Jeremiah's use of the drought metaphor to describe the emptiness of his people's devotion to God a fair challenge to us, in any way, today?
6. If Jeremiah was speaking to the church in Christchurch and/or the West today, what do you think he might be weeping about? Are there areas where our practice as a church does not fulfil God's expectations? Do we have any practices which are extra-Biblical?
7. Jeremiah challenges the numbness of God's people to their sin. Have you ever had a similar experience where you have fallen down or turned away without sensing any urgency to get up or to return to God? Share as you feel able.
8. Why is repentance a big and significant theme for Jeremiah? How does this resonate with the message of Jesus in the New Testament?
9. How does Jeremiah challenge God's people about the Word of God in verses 7b-13? James 1:21 suggests we should embrace the Word of God in our lives. Do you find this easy and what's your strategy/practice to prioritise this discipline?
10. What did Jesus say about the Word of God in the parable of 'The Wise and Foolish Builder' which resonates with all that Jeremiah is saying? Chris said, 'The people possessed the Word, but did not practice the Word.' How is this a challenge for you?