

INTRODUCTION:

This morning's lesson was, you might say, the epilogue, the aftermath. The story is the destruction of Judah by Babylon. Tonight's lesson is the prologue, how Judah, in part, got there. Let's analyze the text and practically apply it to our lives.

ANALYSIS AND APPLICATION OF THE TEXT:

1. **How can you say, "We are wise"?** Jeremiah 8:8. They said it. That didn't make it so.
 - A. Jeremiah 8:9A. "Wisdom is vindicated by her deeds" (Matthew 11:19B). "Folly will be condemned by her children, even as wisdom is justified of hers" (D. Young, Pulpit Commentary).
 - B. Jeremiah 8:9B. Psalm 19:7, "The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple." 1 Corinthians 3:18-20.
2. **How can you say ... "The law of the Lord is with us"?** Jeremiah 8:8. They said it. That didn't make it so. The law of the Lord must actually be with us. Colossians 3:17.
3. **The lying pen of the scribes has made it into a lie.** Jeremiah 8:8.
 - A. Isaiah 5:20; Malachi 2:17A.
 - B. "There is a fearful fascination in literary style. The great danger to the cultivated is that they should select for their guides those writers whose language is most pleasing in place of those whose arguments are most sound" (Adeney, The Pulpit Commentary).
4. **Everyone is greedy for gain.** Jeremiah 8:10.
 - A. They did anything it took to get anything they wanted. Greedy. "To cut off, break off, gain by violence." Gain. "Gain made by violence, unjust gain, profit." Ezekiel 22:26-28; 2 Peter 2:1-3.
 - B. They lose far more than they gain. "Therefore I will give their wives to others, their fields to new owners."
 - C. Everyone. "From the least even to the greatest ... from the prophet even to the priest."
 - 1) Don't trust preachers. They fool themselves. Micah 3:11. Don't let them fool you. Jeremiah 23:16-17.
 - 2) Don't trust yourself. False teachers couldn't "practice deceit" if there wasn't a market for their goods. Jeremiah 5:31; 2 Timothy 4:3-4.
5. **They heal the brokenness of the daughter of My people superficially.** Jeremiah 8:11. Jeremiah 8:15.
6. **They certainly were not ashamed, and they did not know how to blush.** Jeremiah 8:12. Why is this significant?
 - A. We tend to trust more than we should because we can't imagine people deliberately leading us astray. They will. Luke 20:45-47.
 - B. We must be very careful lest we too become hardened by sin.
7. **They shall fall among those who fall; at the time of their punishment they shall be brought down.** Jeremiah 8:12.

CONCLUSION: Types and antitypes.