

Today's reading is a little different. It's a little different, because if you look at the numbers for the chapter, this week comes before last week in the Bible. But in order last week comes before this week, so it gets a little confusing when you're reading Jeremiah because it's not written in order. And it's not written in order because of last week. Jeremiah wrote it all. He said it to Baruch, who copied, who wrote down, scribed everything that he said. But then it got destroyed. As you remember, the king last week cut it all up and threw it in the fire. So, now he's going back through, and he had to go into it all again from memory. Well, then it got destroyed again because the Babylonians came in, and they conquered Jerusalem. So, there's somebody else who wrote it and then got destroyed again and again and again. But it keeps coming back. God's word keeps coming to us through this book, and it's different. Jeremiah's vision is prophecies are a little different than what everybody else had believed at that point in time. It's a big difference.

Jeremiah is speaking directly from God as opposed to the other prophets during this time are speaking through dreams. They have visions, and God is telling him, telling all of us at this point to take a break. Just relax. I have a plan. It's hard for us to listen to that sometimes, right? We all think we know best. We all think we know what's going on, and it's hard to believe that God has a plan for us that we don't know. And he does, and he's telling all of them. I have a plan. This is supposed to happen, and it's hard to believe that something that bad is meant to happen. But he told him about it. He told them; this is going to happen. The Kings aren't listening. The priests aren't listening to my vision. They're not listening to what I'm trying to tell them. He's already split the country into two. Israel is now Israel and Judah. Israel has already fallen. They didn't listen. God gave Judah the second chance. They didn't listen. So, now, he's like, all right. Babylon, come in; wipe them out. They had their chance. That's harsh. That's really harsh to think about. He tells them relax, have faith. That it's going to get better, Have faith that I know what I'm doing.

Having faith is very hard at times. We see so many bad things going on around us, going on in our lives. And it's like, is this really God's plan? Is this really what he wants for us to do? Is this really what he wants to happen to me? What's going on during that time might not be what God intends. It's possible. And we make our own decisions. We choose to listen to what he's trying to tell us. Sometimes we hear him. Sometimes we don't, but eventually we get to his plan. We know that he has a greater gift for us coming. We know that eventually we will get there. We will all be in his kingdom. But we slip sometimes, and it's okay.

God is talking through Jeremiah at this point, and he's saying, don't listen to the others. Don't listen to the past is what he's saying. The other priests that are going around during this time, saying that Jeremiah doesn't know what he's talking about, are teaching from the Torah. They're teaching from the Old Testament and in the Book of Deuteronomy, God says, do not plant. Do not marry. Do not do all of these things. His

vision is changing over time. In Deuteronomy, he's talking to them as they are leaving Egypt. He's telling them you will get to a new home. Do not settle on this, and they did. They got to Israel. They got to Jerusalem. They had faith in what he had planned for them. Then, he's asking them to have faith in what he has planned for them.

Now, at that time, that applies to us just as much. He has a plan for something bigger and better in our lives. He has a plan for us to go and find him right now. It might feel like he's not looking at us. It might feel like all these negative things are happening in our lives. All these things are sad, but he has a plan. We know that he loves us. We know that he cares about us and wants us to succeed. And we will get there a little bit each day. We just have to have faith. Tomorrow's going to be a better day. It might take a few more of those, "Man this was a rough day." But we will get there. We will follow his plan because he knows, in the end, what's going to happen. He knows that one day, it's all going to be better. That it's going to be easier and great for all of us. We just have to have faith in him eventually one day it all makes sense. Let us pray.