

# LIFE GROUP LESSON

Redemption Crisis • Week of October 22

## Introduction

Have you ever felt invisible, like nobody sees you? Have you ever *wanted* to be invisible, hoping no one would see you. That is, at least for a while, perhaps at a time when you desperately needed to steal away and breathe? You think, *Right now I don't need anyone to judge me or tell me what to do. Right now, I don't need any needy people demanding something from me.* We all experience times like this, when we need a moment to just *Be still...* and know that *God* is God. The Lord Jesus meets us in these places, gives us rest, refuge, and often, will surprise us with what He has to say. Today's lesson takes us to two very different places in Scripture, two very different people, in two very different settings. But perhaps the stories are more related than we realize. The Lord knows what we need. But do we want to hear what He has to say?

## Background

The first story is found in the Gospel of John, chapter four. Jesus has to go through Samaria on his way from Judea to Galilee, eventually coming into the village of Sychar. Jews do not go through Samaria; but Jesus and his disciples do. It is about noon and the disciples go in to town to buy food while Jesus stays behind, alone, to find respite by the well of Jacob. While sitting there a Samaritan woman (we might say, biracial) comes to draw water from the well. *Why is she here during the hottest part of the day?* For a moment it is silent. No exchange. Then Jesus speaks to her – “Please give me a drink.” She looks up... and surely wonders: *Why is this man asking me for a drink?* She has been noticed. She is no longer invisible. But the one who sees her is Jesus! He takes notice and knows who she is – her pain, her past, and all the choices that have brought her to this well today. No one has to bring Jesus up to speed. And yet, how wonderful that He does know! For this unnamed woman is about to drink from living water.

Rewind to the days of Jeremiah, just after the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians. Jeremiah was given the choice by the Babylonian captain to either go with exiles to Babylon, where they would be safe and find refuge, or remain behind in Judah – “It's up to you,” says Nebuzaradan. “... I am going to take off your chains and let you go. If you want to come with me to Babylon, you are welcome. I will see that you are well cared for. But if you don't want to come, you may stay here. The whole land is before you – go wherever you like” (see Jeremiah 40:1-6). Jeremiah chooses to stay in Judah, going with the people who have been left behind. However, a plot is set to kill the governor appointed by the Babylonians (Jeremiah 40:7, 41:1-3) because the people are determined to go to Egypt. They do not want to remain in Judah to care for the land as instructed (Jeremiah 39:10). Their plan was

not the Lord's plan. They asked Jeremiah to pray for them; yet, they had already decided in their hearts what they were going to do.

**Read** Jeremiah 42:4-17, Jeremiah 42:19 – 43:7

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can we help you?

## Reflection

Have you ever asked someone to pray for you, even though you already knew what you were going to do? How many times, in obstinance, have we asked the Lord to show the way when we were already headed our way? According to the NLT Life Application Study Bible, “Johanan and his tiny band had come to Jeremiah for God's approval of their plan, not for God's direction. This is a recurring problem for many of us – seeking God's approval of our desires rather than asking Him for guidance. It's not good to make plans unless we are willing to have God change them, and it is not good to pray unless we are willing to accept God's answers.” There is no refuge or rest when we run from God. As difficult as it is to accept God's way, we must. We should pray: “Lord, help me accept Your answer. Lord, give me a pliable spirit to align with what You say.”

## In Closing

What do we learn from these two stories? Listen. Trust and resolve to obey. Then, trust some more. Say to yourself and declare: “I am trusting Jesus! I am trusting Jesus!” The Samaritan woman listened to what Jesus had to say and found freedom (John 4:28-30, 39-42). The people of Judah did not listen to what the Lord said through Jeremiah, thus, remained in their bondage to sin (Jeremiah 43:7-13). The Lord speaks to us today. He says, *If you want to know my will, experience refuge, a safe place, then hear my words. I love you too much not to*

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*discipline you. Rest and sit down. Know you are accepted.* God is for you, not against you. Stop running. Seek refuge in Christ so that you can taste His love and compassion, and experience new strength and power. Stay in His refuge long enough to walk into redemption.

If I have been running away from God, living a life of rebellion, mixed up from lies (lies I have helped to spread) – I must stop and surrender to the truth and rest He offers. Though at times it is hard to give up control, I have learned that when I do, the Lord has a way of making me feel like I am the most important person on the planet. Why? Because He is always ready to give me His undivided attention. He knows me. I may not want to hear what He has to say initially, but I have learned that sometimes what I *think* the Lord is going to say, is not what He says at all. Other times, when the Lord does speak words of instruction, He prepares me to hear it and receive it. Jesus says –

*“Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light”*  
(Matthew 11:28-30).

**Text:** Jeremiah 42: 4-16, 43:4-7, 50: 31-34; Galatians 4: 4-6, Titus 2: 11-15, John 4

## PLAIN TRUTH

The church should be a \_\_\_\_\_ so persons  
can find \_\_\_\_\_.

### One Year Bible Reading For This Week:

Oct. 22: Jeremiah 39:1-41:18, 2 Timothy 1:1-18, Ps. 90:1-91:16, Proverbs 26:1-2  
Oct. 23: Jeremiah 42:1-44:23, 2 Timothy 2:1-21, Psalm 92:1-93:5, Proverbs 26:3-5  
Oct. 24: Jeremiah 44:24-47:7, 2 Timothy 2:22-3:17, Psalm 94:1-23, Prov. 26:6-8  
Oct. 25: Jeremiah 48:1-49:22, 2 Timothy 4:1-22, Psalm 95:1-96:13, Prov. 26:9-12  
Oct. 26: Jeremiah 49:23-50:46, Titus 1:1-16, Psalm 97:1-98:9, Proverbs 26:13-16  
Oct. 27: Jeremiah 51:1-53, Titus 2:1-15, Psalm 99:1-9, Proverbs 26:17  
Oct. 28: Jeremiah 51:54-52:34, Titus 3:1-15, Psalm 100:1-5, Proverbs 26:18-19

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