

A Strange Appeal Provoked by a Stranger Love!

Jeremiah 3:1-14

The word strange simply means unusual and I don't mean in a weird stay away type of way. Rather unusual as it is hard to understand.

I. THE APPEAL BY GOD TO RETURN IS STRANGE BECAUSE IT IS THE BRIDE WHO IS UNFAITHFUL. (Jeremiah 3:1-2)

- A.** Our relationship with God is never broken because God is faithful. The problem is not the faithfulness of God—the problem is the unfaithfulness of His people. (Jeremiah 3:1a)
- B.** Because of our unfaithfulness, God is under no obligation to take us back. (Deuteronomy 24:1-4)
- C.** Although God continually and willfully gets stepped out on He is still willing to welcome us back. (Jeremiah 3:1b-2)

II. THE APPEAL BY GOD TO RETURN IS STRANGE BECAUSE WE HAVE CONTINUED TO IGNORE HIS CORRECTION. (Jeremiah 3:3-5)

- A.** The purpose of God's discipline is for us to acknowledge our error and repent. (Jeremiah 3:3)
 - 1.** *Withholding of the rain was a form of discipline that should have caused Judah to acknowledge their wrong and turn back to God.*
- B.** The goodness of God doesn't mean He must overlook our sinful practices. (Jeremiah 3:4-5a)
- C.** If we truly viewed God as our father and our friend we wouldn't live in a state of habitual disobedience to Him. (Jeremiah 3:5b)

III. THE APPEAL BY GOD TO RETURN IS STRANGE BECAUSE WE UNDERSTAND THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR ACTIONS AND STILL SIN. (Jeremiah 3:6-11)

A. God's strange love calls people back to Him who didn't care about leaving Him.

IV. THE APPEAL OF GOD TO RETURN IS STRANGE BECAUSE DESPITE THE MAGNITUDE OF HIS BRIDE'S UNFAITHFULNESS, HE STILL WELCOMES US HOME. (Jeremiah 3:12-14)

A. There is truly no sin great enough to cause God to reject us if we genuinely want to return to Him. (Jeremiah 3:21-23)

B. When we return to the Lord He does not hold our sin and action over our heads; He forgives us! (Jeremiah 3:12)

1. Don't be afraid to come home. He won't look at you with anger when you return.

C. God is ready and willing to forgive but there must be an acknowledgement of guilt. (Jeremiah 3:13)

D. When we return to the Lord He restores our relationship with Him to where it was before we strayed. (Jeremiah 3:14)

THE FATHER'S ARMS ARE OPEN READY TO RECEIVE YOU BACK--WILL YOU RUN TO HIM?

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BIBLE STUDY

1. In the story of the Prodigal Son, the Father received the son back with joy, but the brother was bitter. How can we cultivate the heart of the father and not the heart of the brother?
2. Read Jeremiah 3:6-24 and discuss.