

Honesty Jeremiah 15:15-21

October 29, 2006

A Love Story - Jeremiah 3

"In choosing Israel, God was seeking such a relationship. He wanted what any parent wants: a happy household of children who return their parents love. His voice sings with pride as he reminisces about the early days 'Is not Ephraim my dear son, the child in whom I delight?' But the joy fades away as God abruptly shifts from the perspective of a parent to that of a lover, a wounded lover. What have I done wrong? He demands in a tone of sadness, and horror, and rage. 'I supplied all their needs, yet they committed adultery and thronged to the houses of prostitutes.'"

Philip Yancey, Disappointment with God

Text Insight - *The prophets frequently indicted Israel for marital infidelity (Hos 4:2, 13-14; Jer 5:7; 7:9; 13:27; Ezek 22:11; 33:26; Isa 57:3; Mal 3:5)... This symbolism is apt because both represent the betrayal of exclusive fidelity. Raw material for the creation of this symbolism is found in the Pentateuch. Israel is commanded to revere only YHWH (Exod 20:3; 22:19; 34:14; etc.) and the formula used to express their covenant relationship is similar to the "solemn words" for marriage.... Anchor Bible Dictionary*

Will the Real Jeremiah Please Stand Up?

You understand, O Lord; remember me and care for me. Avenge me on my persecutors. You are long-suffering – do not take me away; think of how I suffer reproach for your sake. Jeremiah 15:15

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge. Psalm 62:8

Jeremiah Lonely

When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty. I never sat in the company of revelers, never made merry with them; I sat alone because your hand was on me and you had filled me with indignation. Jeremiah 15:16-17

"From our basic prayerbook, the Psalms, the prayers of our ancestors that the Holy Spirit continues to use to teach us to trust and follow and praise God, we also learn how common it is to experience the absence of God. Belief in God does not exempt us from feelings of abandonment by God. Praising God does not inoculate us from doubts about God. '...given our consumerist tendencies to shop for a god or goddess who will cater to our appetites for coziness and good feelings, [these witnesses] are necessary. Necessary to keep us alert and attentive to the mystery of God whose "ways are past finding out." Necessary to prevent us from reducing God Almighty to god-at-my-beck-and-call.' Eugene Peterson

Jeremiah Hurt and Angry

Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable? Will you be to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails? Jeremiah 15:18

Play Acting

Jeremiah Listening

Therefore this is what the Lord says: "If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman. Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them. I will make you a wall to this people, a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you to rescue and save you," declares the Lord. "I will save you from the hands of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the cruel." Jeremiah 15:19-21

Resources:

Run with the Horses by Eugene Peterson

The Pastor and Healing by Rod Wilson

Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places by Eugene Peterson

The Dark Night of the Soul by St. John of the Cross