

Have you ever felt like you were walking through a desert?

- **Lost and uncertain about the future**
- **Facing personal challenges, loss, or hardship**
- **Feeling distant from hope**





**What happens when we
resist God's shaping?**



Jeremiah: A Journey to the Heart of God Series

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

Discovering God's Love and Faithfulness





**Destruction of of Jerusalem
and the Temple**



Finding Hope in Our Own "Exiles"

- Loss of a loved one
- Job loss
- Broken relationships
- Health crises



The Unwavering Love of God

Jeremiah 2:1-3 (NLT)

The Lord gave me another message. He said, "Go and shout this message to Jerusalem. This is what the Lord says: "I remember how eager you were to please me as a young bride long ago, how you loved me and followed me even through the barren wilderness. In those days Israel was holy to the Lord, the first of his children. All who harmed his people were declared guilty, and disaster fell on them. I, the Lord, have spoken!"

The Unwavering Love of God

Key Insight: Love That Doesn't Forget

- ❖ **Even when Israel was faithless, God still remembered their love.**
- ❖ **Even when they turned away, He spoke to them with longing.**
- ❖ **Even in rebellion, He called them back.**

God's love does not erase the past. He redeems it.

The Unwavering Love of God

The Depth of God's Love: Unconditional and Pursuing

A. A Love That Initiates

- ❖ **Before we loved Him, He first loved us (1 John 4:19).**
- ❖ **While Israel suffered in Egypt, God acted (Exodus 3:7).**
- ❖ **Jesus died for us while we were still sinners (Romans 5:8).**

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B. A Love That Pursues

- ❖ **Like the father of the prodigal son, God runs toward us when we return (Luke 15:20).**
- ❖ **Like the shepherd leaving the 99 for the 1, He seeks the lost (Luke 15:4).**
- ❖ **Like Hosea buying back his unfaithful wife, God restores us (Hosea 3:1-2).**

The Unwavering Love of God

The Depth of God's Love: Unconditional and Pursuing

C. A Love That Never Lets Go

- ❖ **"I have loved you with an everlasting love"
(Jeremiah 31:3).**
- ❖ **"Nothing can separate us from the love of God"
(Romans 8:38-39).**

**God's love isn't just a feeling;
it's a fact. It's who He is.**

The Unwavering Love of God

... FOR MY PEOPLE HAVE
COMMITTED TWO EVILS:

**THEY HAVE
FORSAKEN ME,
THE FOUNTAIN OF
LIVING WATERS,**

AND HEWED OUT CISTERNS FOR
THEMSELVES, BROKEN CISTERNS
THAT CAN HOLD NO WATER.

JEREMIAH 2:13



The Tragedy of Abandoning This Love

The Unwavering Love of God

The Tragedy of Abandoning This Love

Modern-Day Parallels:

- ❖ **We chase approval (social media, relationships) instead of His acceptance.**
- ❖ **We seek comfort (money, addictions) instead of His peace.**
- ❖ **We worship busyness (work, achievement) instead of His presence.**

We often don't realize the trade we've made until we're spiritually empty.

The Unwavering Love of God



A Return to Love

- A. Recognize the Drift**
- B. Return and Receive His Forgiveness**
- C. Rest in His Love and Grace**

Jeremiah 29:10-14 (NLT)

This is what the Lord says: “You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised and I will bring you home again. For I know the plans I have for you... plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. I will be found by you... I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land.”

A Heart of Faithfulness: God's Unchanging Promises

- ❖ **Faithfulness Means God Acts on His Word**
- ❖ **God didn't just sympathize; He acted.**
- ❖ **He didn't just express hope; He declared His plan.**
- ❖ **He didn't just comfort; He promised restoration.**



The Depth of God's Faithfulness

God's promises do not fail even when people do.



Trusting God's Faithfulness

Cling to His Word in Uncertainty

- ❖ **When prayers seem unanswered, remember His past faithfulness.**
- ❖ **When the future is unclear, hold onto His promises.**
- ❖ **When doubt creeps in, speak Scripture over your situation.**



Trusting God's Faithfulness

Trust His Plan Over Ours

- ❖ Joseph thought his dreams meant quick success, but he endured slavery and prison before being elevated (Genesis 50:20).
- ❖ The disciples expected Jesus to overthrow Rome, but He conquered sin and death instead.



Trusting God's Faithfulness

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer, resting on an open Bible. The hands are positioned in the upper right quadrant of the frame, with fingers interlaced. The Bible is open, showing its pages, and is held in the lower left quadrant. The background is dark and out of focus, emphasizing the hands and the book. The overall mood is one of devotion and trust.

God's plans are greater than our short-term fixes

Trusting God's Faithfulness

Seek Him Wholeheartedly

- ❖ **Jeremiah 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.**
- ❖ **Are you seeking God only for His blessings or for Himself?**
- ❖ **Do we trust Him only when life is easy, or even in the wilderness?**



The Unshakable Hope of God's Faithfulness

- ❖ When we are faithless, He remains faithful (2 Timothy 2:13).
- ❖ When we can't see the way, He is working (Isaiah 55:8-9).
- ❖ When the wait feels endless, His timing is perfect (Habakkuk 2:3).



The Unshakable Hope of God's Faithfulness

- ❖ If you're in a season of waiting, wondering if God has forgotten you—He hasn't.
- ❖ If you've failed and think God is done with you—He isn't.
- ❖ If you can't see how your situation could ever change—He can.



Discovering the Heart of the Matter: Living in God's Love and Faithfulness



The Key To Transformation: Trusting God

Our lives are changed not by striving harder, but by trusting more deeply in who God is.

Reflection Question: Do I view God as a taskmaster keeping score, or as a loving Father who has already secured my future?

Discovering the Heart of the Matter: Living in God's Love and Faithfulness



The Peril of Complacency

Modern-Day Complacency

We risk the same when we:

- ❖ Treat church attendance or Bible study as a way to offset unrepentant sin.
- ❖ Assume God's grace gives us permission to live however we choose.
- ❖ Reduce faith to a routine rather than a relationship.

**God's love does not excuse sin;
it exposes it so we can return to Him.**

Discovering the Heart of the Matter: Living in God's Love and Faithfulness



The Invitation to Wholeheartedness (Jer. 29:13)

- ❖ **Honesty in prayer, like David in Psalms.**
- ❖ **Daily reliance on Scripture, not just turning to it in crises.**
- ❖ **Community that encourages faith (Hebrews 10:24-25).**

Discussion Questions

1. Jeremiah 2:2 describes Israel's "devotion of youth"—a time when they loved God wholeheartedly. Can you share a moment in your life when you felt especially close to God? What helped you experience His love during that time?
2. Jeremiah 2:13 says we often trade God's living water for broken wells (idols, sin, self-reliance). What are some "broken cisterns" you've been tempted to rely on instead of God (e.g., approval, control, money, busyness)?
3. Jeremiah 29:11 was given to people in exile—a 70-year wait. Share a situation where you're struggling to trust God's timing. How can His past faithfulness encourage you?