



Sermon Growth Guide

March 9, 2025

“Turned”

Jeremiah 31:18-20; 31-34

Key Verse: Jeremiah 31:33

“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people.

Big Idea: The new covenant is fulfilled in Jesus.

Foundations

The first words Jesus speaks in the Gospel of Mark are: “The time has come... The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” In our text for today, the prophet Jeremiah both predicts and illuminates Jesus’ announcement. Jeremiah said that the day would come when God would make a new covenant with his people (Jeremiah 31:31-34). This covenant would be different. Instead of being conditional on Israel’s obedience, it would be a covenant of grace. Instead of the law being an outside standard, impossible to attain, God would write the law on the hearts of his people, enabling them to be holy from the inside out. Instead of needing teachers, each person could know God and pray to him directly. Instead of needing a sacrifice every time they committed a sin, they would walk in forgiveness, and God would always look on them as clean. At last, God will be their God, and they will be his people, walking together in perfect relationship.

Jesus announced that the day had finally come. The kingdom of this world is being replaced by the kingdom of God. But just as Jeremiah said, the way into this kingdom is through repentance (Jeremiah 31:18-20). The Mosaic covenant revealed something important: Sin can’t reside with a holy God. If we want to live in God’s kingdom, our sin can’t come with us. We have to understand ourselves as we really are and grieve that reality. But when we do, something wonderful happens. Through the blood of Christ, we become part of the beautiful new covenant. And that is very good news.

Understanding God’s Word

Read Jeremiah 31:18-20; 31-34 together. What parts of this passage resonate with you? What questions do you have? Read Hebrews 8:6-13 and Galatians 5:1-6; 13-26. Do these passages help us understand the new covenant in Jeremiah?

Applying God’s Word

What is your experience with repentance? Have you ever really grieved the presence of sin in your life? Jeremiah says that God will “write his words on our hearts.” Can you name specific ways in which the Spirit helps you obey the law by “serving one another humbly in love” instead of “gratifying the desires of the flesh?” (Galatians 5:13-16)

Witnessing God’s Word

In Jeremiah 31:29-30, God makes it clear that in the new covenant we are all responsible for our own sin. And yet, he makes it clear that he will always be in the business of creating a people for himself (Jeremiah 31:31, 33). The new covenant is still for Israel, but anyone can become a child of Abraham through faith in Christ. (Galatians 3:26-29)

Think about all of your relationships. If you haven’t already, begin praying for someone you know who might need to hear the good news of Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to open doors for loving spiritual conversations.