

Rockford Reformed Church
Sermon Series - "Time For Change" #11
Jeremiah 3:6-14 - "Returning Home"
3/17/19 – Pastor Tim Meendering

Questions for family/small group discussions:

1. God invites you into a _____ with him.

- a. When you read Jer. 3:14, what does it mean when God communicates to his people that he is their husband?
- b. What are some ways that you have looked for love and friend relationships to satisfy your need for love and come up short? Why do they come up short?
- c. What happens when you see and absorb the truth of God's delight in you? How does it change your relationships with spouse, girl/boy friends, and others?

2. The problem: the _____ lovers.

- a. When you look at Jer. 3:2-3, 6, 8, 13, and 20-21, what are some of the phrases and images that are used to describe how the people would backslide or be faithless? What do these stark images say about the severity of faithlessness?
- b. What are some ways that you find beauty, love, and affirmation from substitutes or idols rather than from God? Can you recall some of the ugly results in your life when you have turned to substitutes?
- c. Since God is also to be our peace, security, joy, and pleasure, what substitutes do we look to for these things?
- d. In Jer. 3:10 and 13, what is important to NOT do and what is important TO do when returning home to God?

3. _____ is the yellow-brick road home.

Some elements of genuine, whole-hearted repentance:

- a. **Sight and sense of your _____.**
In Jer. 2:23, how does sin impact our ability to see our sin and idols? How could you pray to change this?
- b. _____
What does Jer. 3:13 say about what we are to do with our guilt? How can you make this a part of your daily relationship with Jesus?
- c. _____
What do Jer. 3:3 and 6:15 say about shame? What is happening when we lose our ability to blush with shame and how can we get a right sense of shame?
- d. _____ **from sin.**
What does Jer. 31:19 say about how to return home to God?
- e. _____ **as your husband calls you home again.**
What has Jesus done and provided so that you can be a beautiful bride for him? At what expense?

Resources for further growth/study:

- ***Counterfeit Gods: The Empty Promises of Money, Sex, and Power, and the Only Hope That Matters***, by Tim Keller.
- ***Idols of the Heart: Learning to Long for God Alone***, by Elyse Fitzpatrick.