

REMEMBERING AND REPENTING

By Jeff Landers, First Christian Church, St. Francis, Kansas

Jeremiah 2:1-8

Do you remember what it was like when you were first married? Do you remember the flowers that were given frequently, the special notes left here and there, the walks you took hand-in-hand? Do you remember how enraptured you were just being together, regardless of what you were doing? Do you remember the passion, the excitement, the devotion? As we think about those special times, some of us may have a slight twinge of sadness in our hearts. Why? It may be that the passion, the excitement, and the devotion of the beginning of our marriages are no longer experienced with the same level of intensity and emotion. Time may have eroded the thrill of those early days.

What is true, sometimes, of our marriage relationships was true of Israel's relationship with God. Through the prophet Jeremiah, God remembers the devotion of Israel in the early days and compares Israel to a bride who loved Him. As a bride, Israel followed wherever He took her, through desert and wilderness (2:2). Israel was very special to God, like the first crop to be harvested. As a matter of fact, Israel was so special to God that He protected her from all of her enemies by bringing disaster upon them (2:3). However, the fond memories stop with verse three. With the beginning of verse four, God takes up His case against His bride. Israel strayed away from God and transferred her devotion from God to worthless idols, becoming worthless herself (2:5). She strayed so far that she even forgot about God, no longer asking about Him who rescued her from Egypt (2:6). Things went from bad to worse. God provided the Promised Land to His bride and she defiled it and herself with her sin (2:7). Finally, the priests, the representatives of God for Israel, were not even pursuing God. Those who dealt with God's Law did not even know God, but rebelled. The prophets were prophesying according to Baal and followed worthless idols (2:8). The bride turned into a prostitute of the worst kind. It is almost unbelievable.

What is true of Israel may be true of us. We may have devotedly pursued God when we first put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for the free gift of eternal life, but our pursuit of God may have come to a standstill, or worse, we may be heading the opposite direction, pursuing something else. We may have forgotten about God and we may have defiled ourselves with sin. If this is true of our lives, we are guilty of spiritual prostitution. If this is true of you, I plead with you to

“repent and do the things you did at first” (Revelation 2:5). Follow God wherever He leads, frequently spend time with God in studying His Word and prayer, and free yourself from sin. When you do, the joy you had in knowing God at the beginning of your relationship with Him will return.