



Series: “**Jeremiah: Prophet to God’s People in Crisis**”

Sermon: “**Talismans and Slogans**”

Speaker: **Pastor T. C.**

Passage: **Jeremiah 7.1–29**

Week: **February 19, 2017**

Grow + Serve Group Guide

I. Get to know one another

Share about a good luck charm or a slogan you’ve had in your life.

II. Description of Sunday’s Message

Jeremiah 7.1–29 is part of what is called Jeremiah’s “Temple Sermon,” because in the text the LORD commanded Jeremiah to preach the word he received from God to the people of Judah at the gate of the temple. The message was dire. The Judahites had sinned egregiously against God by defiling the temple, which bore the Name of God, and they had unjustly treated the most vulnerable among them (e.g. immigrants, the fatherless, widows, and the innocent, etc.). Through Jeremiah, the LORD condemned the Judahites for both their idolatry and their injustice. He exposed their talismans (good luck charms) and slogans (justifying mantras)—their investment of trust into institutions and ideas that were not God and God’s ways.

What are the talismans and slogans in our lives that are idolatrous and justify our injustice? What institutions and ideas have we invested our trust in other than God and God’s ways embodied in Jesus Christ? There is a personal dimension to these questions. There is also a corporate dimension. What talismans and slogans do we have as a church? What talismans and slogans do we have as Americans? If we are to walk in righteousness before God and dwell in intimate fellowship with God, we must be willing to repent of our idols and injustice and ask God to root them out of our lives. We can only do this as part of God’s people, indwelt by God’s Spirit, the new temple God is building.

Share what you learned or any questions about from the sermon.

III. Digging Deeper into the Sermon:

1. Read *Jeremiah 7.1—29*
2. Through the prophet Jeremiah, what is it that YHWH is accusing the Judahites of doing?
3. Why would Judah’s sin be so offensive to God?
4. Why might it have been difficult for the Judahites to trust in YHWH?
5. What are some examples of institutions or slogans in which you have placed your trust?
6. Why is it significant that the New Testament teaches God “tabernacled” among us in Jesus Christ?
7. Why is it significant that the New Testament teaches the church is the Temple of God?
8. How might we (as a church) heed this prophetic warning in our lives today?

V. Share with and Pray for One Another