

SERIES: *CROSSROADS*

DATE: Saturday - Sunday, August 29-30, 2026

SERMON: *Turning from Losing to Winning*

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 4:1-4; 5:23-25; 6:16-20

Jeremiah 4:1-4

[1] "If you, Israel, will return, then return to me," declares the LORD. "If you put your detestable idols out of my sight and no longer go astray,

[2] and if in a truthful, just and righteous way you swear, 'As surely as the LORD lives,' then the nations will invoke blessings by him and in him they will boast."

[3] This is what the LORD says to the people of Judah and to Jerusalem: "Break up your unplowed ground and do not sow among thorns.

[4] Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, circumcise your hearts, you people of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, or my wrath will flare up and burn like fire because of the evil you have done - burn with no one to quench it.

Jeremiah 5:23-25

[23] But these people have stubborn and rebellious hearts; they have turned aside and gone away.

[24] They do not say to themselves, 'Let us fear the LORD our God, who gives autumn and spring rains in season, who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest.'

[25] Your wrongdoings have kept these away; your sins have deprived you of good.

Jeremiah 6:16-20

[16] This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'

[17] I appointed watchmen over you and said, 'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!' But you said, 'We will not listen.'

[18] Therefore hear, you nations; you who are witnesses, observe what will happen to them.

[19] Hear, you earth: I am bringing disaster on this people, the fruit of their schemes, because they have not listened to my words and have rejected my law.

[20] What do I care about incense from Sheba or sweet calamus from a distant land? Your burnt offerings are not acceptable; your sacrifices do not please me."

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How do we move from the things that hurt us to the things that help us?

1. Turn to _____. v.4:1

- Sin is _____ God; repentance must be _____ God.
- This is Jeremiah's _____ of sin:
Jeremiah 5:23 *But these people have stubborn and rebellious hearts; they have turned aside and gone away.*
- Being sold out to sin _____ the good things of God.
Jeremiah 5:31 *The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way. But what will you do in the end?*

2. Seek _____ and _____. vv.5:1-3

- Make your life a _____ of living for God.
- Why is this so important _____?

3. Continually walk in the _____. v.6:16

- Work on the _____.
 - *Do this and you'll get the big things that go with it.*
- Follow the way that has always led to _____ and _____.
 - Follow Godly leaders
 - *"You will become like the people you hang out with."*
 - *"Play the movie"*
 - *"Deal with your issues in your 20's & 30's or they will destroy you in your 40's & 50's."*

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How do we move from the things that hurt us to the things that help us?

1. Turn to God v.4:1

- Sin is against God; repentance must be toward God.
- This is Jeremiah's doctrine of sin:
***Jeremiah 5:23** But these people have stubborn and rebellious hearts; they have turned aside and gone away.*
- Being sold out to sin keeps us from the good things of God.
***Jeremiah 5:31** The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way. But what will you do in the end?*

2. Seek truth and faithfulness. vv.5:1-3

- Make your life a pursuit of living for God.
- Why is this so important early in life?

3. Continually walk in the Good Way. v.6:16

- Work on the little things.
 - *Do this and you'll get the big things that go with it.*
- Follow the way that has always led to hope and peace.
 - Follow Godly leaders
 - *"You will become like the people you hang out with."*
 - *"Play the movie"*
 - *"Deal with your issues in your 20's & 30's or they will destroy you in your 40's & 50's."*