

**Sunday, August 28, 2022 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church  
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Bible Study – Jeremiah 2:4-13**

**“Cracked Cisterns”**

Open with a word of prayer

**Gathering Time** (5-10 minutes)

In groups of two or three, respond to the following, “What is your fondest memory?”

**Jeremiah 2:4-13 Context.** This week’s reading is the opening salvo in what becomes a barrage of judgments that Jeremiah communicates to the people. It is addressed to the “house of Jacob and ... the house of Israel,” that is, more specifically to the ten tribes of the northern kingdom that had been largely crushed by the Assyrians nearly a century before Jeremiah’s time. It is cast in a legal setting, common to many of the oracles of the prophets, where the Lord brings a complaint and accusation against those who have broken the covenant. Here the Lord through the prophet recalls how even though it was the Lord who brought the people out of the land of bondage through the wilderness to the land of promise and bounty, the people had turned their backs and forgotten their God altogether. The geographical references in the text suggest a survey of peoples from the west (Cyprus) to the east (Kedar, the name by which the region of northwest Arabia was known).

**Read Jeremiah 2:4-13**

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn’t make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

**Read Isaiah 2:4-13 again**

**Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.**

- In verse five, the prophet notes that God has observed the “worthless” things the people have sought. When have you been guilty of seeking worthless things?
- How is this passage about the people’s lack of memory?

- What practices and rituals help keep the memory fresh of what God has done for and through the covenant community?
- What are the two evils the people have committed (verse 13)?
- What might be the “cracked cisterns” in our lives today?
- **(R)** What does this passage tell us about the basis of God’s accusations against the people (v. 9)? What does this passage tell us about the importance of rituals for helping us to remember what God has done for us as individuals and as the community of faith?

**Closing Reflection Question**

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

**Prayer** (10 minutes). Share prayer requests and respond appropriately.

**Sending Forth** (2 minutes). After all, have shared, end by praying the following or a similar prayer:

God of the prophets, you call us to reflect your character and glory. Forgive us when we have failed to live up to that calling. Forgive us and empower us again to be the people of God who point to your righteousness and justice as live giving ways for all people. Give us the courage to name injustices, speak truth to power, and point to the truth of your love. **Amen.**

And now we pray The Lord’s Prayer....

Our Father who art in Heaven  
 hallowed be thy name.  
 Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
 on earth as it is in Heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
 Lead us not into temptation  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom, the power  
 and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.