

LIFEGROUP NOTES: JEREMIAH 34 and 35

As ever, please use (or discard!) these ideas as is most suitable for your group. Don't feel you have to use everything.

Introduction

1. Think of a time when you were desperate for God's help and you prayed along these lines: "Lord, if you'll just get me out of this mess, then I'll serve you more faithfully." What was the outcome?

Read Jer 34

2. With Jerusalem surrounded by the Babylonian army, what step did the people take (34:8-10)? Why do you think they did this (see 34:13-15)? What do you think they were hoping for?
3. 34:21 alludes to a temporary withdrawal by the Babylonian army. How did the slave owners react to this respite (34:11, 16)? What was God's response to their blatant covenant-breaking (34:17-22)?

Read Jer 35

4. How do you think the Rekabites felt in refusing Jeremiah's generous hospitality (35:1-10)? Why did the Rekabites respond as they did? What lesson did Jeremiah draw (35:12-16)? What was God's verdict on their obedience, in contrast to the stubborn disobedience of the people of Judah (35:17-19)?
5. Where are you sometimes tempted to compromise Christian commitment? Think of the promises you made in your baptism: how have you compromised these either for your convenience or in order to fit in with the crowd? How does God's commendation of the Rekabites encourage you? Compare Matthew 5:11-16; 10:32-33; 1Peter 2:11-12.

Responding in Prayer

- Confess to God any areas where you have not been living out your promised commitment to Him, and pray for help to renew your commitment. Thank God for His faithfulness to all His promises, including the promise of forgiveness, and grace to restore us.

Eddie Larkman, November 2016