

LIFEGROUP NOTES: JEREMIAH CHS.40-44

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

1. In the sermon, Eddie contrasted making an "Adam" decision with making a "Jesus" decision. What decision did Adam and Eve make concerning God's word in Ge 3:1-6? What does this imply about how they viewed God's goodness? What decision did Jesus make (Php 2:6-8; compare Mt 4:4; Jn 4:34; Jn 8:29).
2. After the murder of the governor appointed by the Babylonians, what did the remnant of the Jews do (Jer 42:1-3)? What did they promise (42:5-6)? What did God say they should do (42:10-12) – and not do (42:19)? And how did the leaders of the remnant respond (43:2,7)?
3. Why do you think the remnant make this "Adam" decision? What did it reveal about their heart? Have you ever asked God to show you His will, when in truth you'd already made up your mind what to do? What is revealed about your heart when that happens?
4. The refusal to heed God's word led the remnant to become increasingly deaf to God's voice. What was God's final appeal to them in Jer 44:7-9? How did they express their hardening defiance (Jer 44:16-19)? What was God's response (Jer 44:25-26)?
5. When has the Lord warned you about things in your life which harm you? How might the Lord be warning you now about some self-destructive practice or attitude? What is the danger in continually refusing to make the "Adam" decision by refusing to heed God's word and to trust His goodness?
6. Go back to Jer 40:4. What was the comfortable option given to Jeremiah? What did Jeremiah do instead (40:6)? Why might we call this a "Jesus" decision (compare Mk 8:34-35)? What was the fruit of this decision in the short term ... and in the long term, right down to the present day?
7. God's word confronts us with daily choices. Are you more likely to make "Adam" decisions or "Jesus" ones? Why? How can we help one another to become people whose norm is to make the "Jesus" decision in response to God's word?

Responding in Prayer

Open your life to the light of God's searching. Confess any excuses you make for harmful attitudes or habits. Thank the Lord for his warnings which come because he loves you, and pray for a growing delight and trust in God's word.

Eddie Larkman, December 2016