



For Further Study



Read and meditate on the passage below:

⁴ And though the Lord has sent all his servants the prophets to you again and again, you have not listened or paid any attention. ⁵ They said, “Turn now, each of you, from your evil ways and your evil practices, and you can stay in the land the Lord gave to you and your ancestors for ever and ever. ⁶ Do not follow other gods to serve and worship them; do not arouse my anger with what your hands have made. Then I will not harm you.”
(Jeremiah 25:4-6)

The above passage comes from the prophetic oracles ascribed to Jeremiah, a prophet who lived at the time of the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians in 586 BCE. Jeremiah has spent twenty-three years trying to preach and model for the people a better way of living--one that focuses on loving God and loving others--but the people will not change their ways. Hence destruction is coming soon.

Like Jeremiah and other prophets, Jesus has taught a non-violent, others-centered, revolutionary way of life. He encouraged people to turn from their “evil ways” and practices. It is not that God will militaristically protect them as much as God’s wisdom knows and shows us what is the way to live peacefully with others and what will result in destruction. When the people choose a path that leads to destruction, they will lay in the bed they have made. In Jesus’ time, the disaster will come from the Romans in 70CE.

Hence the “harm” God speaks of in verse 6 does not come directly from God but from the Babylonians as God warned them. Their refusal to seek God’s counsel will result in terrible consequences. We too need to listen to God.



REFLECTION:

Take some time this week to completely remove yourself from distractions and listen to God.

PRACTICE:

Go for a walk and be observant of your community. How do we ignore God’s counsel?