

THE REAL, REAL WORLD SERIES FOUR
DIVORCE
Pastor Seth Kreimeyer-Kelly
Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Jeremiah 29:4-7; 29:11-13

Intro

Read Deut. 24:1-4

- From this passage we discover that early on in Israel's history divorce is present.
- So from this point forward we can say that this real element of life has been something that society, and even more specifically God's people, has struggled with for quite some time.
- The word that is being used to describe divorce in this passage is an incredibly revealing one. If we could read this in the original Hebrew we would find that this is literally saying that divorce is to put ones wife away. Reminded me of my favorite segment of Sesame Street when I was little.

Ill-Tiny weenie little guy (**Slide**)-My favorite character from when I watched Sesame Street as a kid was the little cup that could go through walls. The Teeny Weenie Little Guy. Does anyone remember this guy? It was this little guy on a cup and he would dance around and go through cupboard doors and explore the entire kitchen and then end up getting put away again. I always felt so bad for him when he got put away. He was a cup that could sing and dance he had talent he had feelings and yet somehow he was always just put away. I always got as little upset because I guessed he must have felt pretty sad always getting put in the cupboards like that.

- The Hebrew description of divorce sums up all the pain and tragedy of it by describing it as putting the wife away. Perhaps even a better description would be divorce is putting the family away.
- The anger that is felt by a family, especially kids, after a divorce is anger over having their family put away like a cup from the dishwasher.

t>> the questions that come up after a divorce are difficult ones. Am I allowed to be angry at mom or dad? Can my family be a "normal" family? How am I supposed to act when I'm around other people? Should I be sad, should I act like nothing happened or it doesn't matter, should I even let people know that it happened?

- If we allow ourselves to explore God's story a bit we'll find that His people have felt and lived through the feelings we feel.
- Background of Jeremiah: Jerusalem has been overrun by the Babylonians and most of its people have been dragged across the desert and forced to live in exile away from home and family in Babylon. Jeremiah is writing a letter to these people who have been taken away giving them a message from God. These are people who have had their lives turned upside down and are now hearing from God how to proceed from there.

Read Jeremiah 29:4-7

- I find it fascinating that in a time where their world upheaval and they have no control over anything God tells his people to thrive and prosper.
- Isn't this really one of the frustrating parts of divorce? The fact that as young people you have no control over a situation that impacts you so much.
- This being the case then verses 4-7 are words meant for us just as much as they are meant for the Israelites.
- You've been pulled into this painful situation you don't like and yet God says pray for and seek peace (don't expect an immediate reversal of fortune) within that situation.
- Not simply making the best of a bad situation. This isn't taking lemons and making lemonade. It's allowing for and working to make a good situation. Not the divorce itself, but the situation that follows the divorce.

III-The Wrong Bus Home-There was a news story recently about a lady in Thailand who got on the bus to go home but instead ended up in an entirely different city that was nearly 1000 miles away from where she lived (**Slides**). The worst part was that she didn't speak the language in that was spoken in that city so she couldn't communicate with anyone to share her story. She had been stranded in this same city for the past 25 years away from her family and unable to tell anyone. Her family was told that she was dead from being hit by a bus. Was finally found when some students from her home town came upon her and she started talking with them.

- Some things are just out of our control, but we can work hard at living well and at peace in those that are.
- Part of having peace is allowing yourself to mourn. Unmourned pain is a huge inhibitor of peace. You can recognize the pain. It can't be ministered to if you don't acknowledge it.

III-Chaplains in hospitals encourage mourning family members to pray out mournful psalms. One of my seminary classes was taught by a chaplain from a hospital here in town. He shared how he has to obviously deal with a lot of people in emotional pain at the hospital. Lots of times people need a way to let out their anger. He suggests that they pray out a psalm (Get angry and joyful psalms to practice with).

- Psalm 79, 80, 74, 69, 60, 22 (Jesus prayer on the cross comes from 22-Mark 15:34)
- I was given another way when I went to a counselor to help me deal with some anger issues.
- Angry with mom and dad write a letter and never send it

t>> One of God's biggest desires is to see His people living with Him in his story in lives of peace and harmony. To this end it's valuable for us to remember that God says in His story he has a plan for us.

Read Jeremiah 29:11-13

- Vs. 11-13- In tough times it's difficult to see past the pain however God promises that He has a plan and a future for us
- God's plans are far more about people than they are situations. He works at developing people rather than situations. Divorce isn't in God's plan it was a human decision. God's plan is about you and who you become.

Ill-Seth's lack of a grandfather (**Slide**)- God has brought people into my orbit that have helped me become a man and worked to teach me things as a grandfather would. If I had simply focused on the lack of a grandfather I would have missed these people.

Closing

- What an amazing thing it is that even when we have real anger and real pain we can still actively participate in God's story.
- It's not like he tells us to take a timeout in the corner until we get over it, but rather invites us to bring it into His story knowing that is really the only way we'll find the healing and peace we desire and need.