



Look Back

- Group check in...how's summer going so far? Discuss again any plans to have a party or BBQ or other "summertime" event where you can reach out to people who are far from God or who need connected to other people.
- Is there any "course correction" update from last week's discussion? How is it going?
- Did anyone end up sharing Jesus with anyone this past week or having any discussions that point to Jesus?

Look Up

As God continues, through the prophet Jeremiah, to warn and to give His people a chance to repent and to turn toward Him, they continue not to listen! God warns; they ignore. Two things are important to note before we get to our reading: 1. God is concerned with how they are treating "his name" (7:1-15) and 2. God has a wounded heart (8:21). God's heart, the heart of the Father, is wounded because His children have chosen deceit and lies and idols and evil over him. His children refuse to turn toward him. There's a lot of meaning, and even character or reputation, that comes with a name. A name is tied to more than just a driver's license or SS Number. His people have mistreated his name; and God's heart is wounded and crushed.

Remember, Judah has already watched what happened to Israel. Now, the same fate is awaiting them, if they so choose. This then brings us to our reading for today:

Read Jeremiah 9:23-27

- What do you learn about God?
- What do you learn about people (and yourself)?
- What do you find difficult or challenging?

Look Forward

- What emotions and thoughts do you have when you read something like God's heart is wounded because of his people?
- Two times God talks says "they do not know me" (9:3) and "they refuse to know me" (9:6). But he says let his people boast this: "that they understand and know me". What does this look like your life? What practices help you to understand and know God better?
- How can you, as a group, engage one another (or people outside your current group) toward knowing God better?

Pray together for a while. Ask God to bring to mind people in your life that need to hear this message...this week! And then listen. And then let God use you to speak to them the message of a Loving Father who greatly desires a relationship with them!