

# One Thing Leads to Another

Jeremiah 6:10-19

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## INTRODUCTION:

- A. Lesson Text: **Jeremiah 6:10-19**
- B. We've all heard the expression, "The Snowball Effect."
  1. This describes the situation when something small grows into something very large.
  2. This very effect has happened in the spiritual lives of people and it can happen to us today if we are not careful.
- C. Moral sins often lead to a shipwrecked faith, and Jeremiah shows us how this happens.

## THE EXISTENCE OF MORAL SIN

- A. Review Jeremiah 26-28
- B. Notice the nature of these moral failures:
  1. Deceit that has brought riches.
  2. Abundance while others do without.
  3. Lack of compassion for the helpless.
- C. These are not "unthinkable acts," but can be and are commonly practiced if careful attention is not given.
- D. But note that this moral failure leads to the destruction of one's faith.

## WHEN ONE PRACTICES IMMORALITY, HE DOESN'T LOVE THE TRUTH.

- A. **Jeremiah 6:10** – "To whom can I speak and give warning? Who will listen to me? Their ears are closed so they cannot hear. The word of the Lord is offensive to them; they find no pleasure in it."
- B. **2 Thessalonians 2:10-12** – "And in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 11 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness."
- C. We must love the truth above all things. **John 8:32** – "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

## WHEN ONE DOESN'T LOVE THE TRUTH, HE OPENS HIMSELF TO ERROR

- A. **Jeremiah 6:14** – "They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. 'Peace, peace,' they say, when there is no peace."
- B. **Jeremiah 5:30-31** – "A horrible and shocking thing has happened in the land: The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way. But what will you do in the end?"

### C. When one rejects the truth, he by default, embraces error. (Repeat)

#### WHEN ONE OPENS HIMSELF TO ERROR, HE SEARS HIS CONSCIENCE

- A. **Jeremiah 6:15** – “Are they ashamed of their loathsome conduct? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush. So they will fall among the fallen; they will be brought down when I punish them,’ says the Lord.”
- B. **1 Timothy 4:1-2** – “The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.  
Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.”
- C. **Ephesians 4:18-19** – They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.  
Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.”

#### WHEN ONE SEARS HIS CONSCIENCE, HE HAS DESTROYED HIMSELF

- A. **Jeremiah 6:16-19** – “This is what the Lord says: ‘Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.’ But you said, ‘We will not walk in it.’  
I appointed watchmen over you and said, ‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet!’ But you said, ‘We will not listen.’  
Therefore hear, O nations; observe, O witnesses, what will happen to them.  
Hear, O earth: I am bringing disaster on this people, the fruit of their schemes, because they have not listened to my words and have rejected my law.”
- B. A Seventeenth Century British minister once said, “Little sins are not like an inch of candle, which soon expires, but they resemble a trail of powder, which takes the fire until at last the barrels burst asunder.”
- C. Listening friends, sin’s spiral is always downward away from God and edging in the direction of the evil one.
- D. When the judgment of God comes upon us, we have no one to blame but ourselves . . . We have been shown . . . We have been informed . . . And we have been given a choice in the matter.

#### CONCLUSION:

- A. If this lesson does nothing else, I hope it has served to show you the connection between faith and morals and the downward spiral that comes when both are compromised.
- B. Our morality will be consistent with our faith.
1. Our morals will either rise to the level of our faith.
  2. Or, our faith will lower itself to the level of our morals. (Repeat 1 & 2)
- C. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**