**22 – Concern of Jeremiah**

*Jeremiah 9:1; Acts 20:17-21*

**Context of Jeremiah 9:1**

* Sorrow for brethren – **9:1**
  + Because of God’s judgement – **8:13**
  + Disobedient people – **8:4-12**
* Extent of his sorrow – **8:18-9:1**
  + **9:1** – has such concern for his brethren that their disobedience has moved him to the point of sorrow, so much that he wishes his tears were as a fountain so they could be sufficient for how he was feeling.
* Sorrow about impending captivity, but primarily spiritual separation from God – **cf. 10:21-22**

**Context of Acts 20:17-21**

* Paul on his way to Jerusalem passes Ephesus, but sends for Ephesian elders when he is in Miletus – **v. 17**
* **V. 18-24, 27-31** – His concern manifest itself in the preaching of the gospel.
  + He knew of danger that threatened the Ephesian brethren and made sure they knew.
  + He preached the whole counsel of God because he loved them and wished for them to remain faithful.
* Another example of Paul’s concern for the brethren – **2 Corinthians 11:28**

**Jeremiah’s Concern and Message**

* Like Paul, Jeremiah’s concern for his brethren did not stop at tears and restless nights, but translated into preaching the truth that they would be saved.
* **Jeremiah 8:22** – Jeremiah’s message is the balm his brethren needed.
  + **8:6; 9:2** – Yet they did not listen and repent.
* **1:9-10, 17, 19** – His message would be of impending judgment. Convicting them of sin and calling to repentance, but they would not listen.
* **20:7-10** – They treated him poorly, but his concern for them was so great that he persevered and preached unto them the word of God.
* **We must have a concern for our brethren like Jeremiah did**. **And like his concern, ours must lead to action as well.**

**Need for concern.**

* **1 John 4:7-11** – God loved us, and we also ought to love one another.
* **Philippians 2:4-8** – This love/concern manifests in action of humility and service.

**Concern shown in action.**

* Restoring the erring – **Galatians 6:1-2; James 5:19-20**
* Prayer for others – **James 5:16; Ephesians 6:18**
* Displaying sympathy for others – **1 Corinthians 12:26 –** Benevolence – **Acts 20:35**