



Part 1: Surrender the Pen

October 17 & 18, 2015

Grant Fishbook, Lead Teaching Pastor

The Arc of Life



My Response to Jeremiah 17

¹“Judah’s sin is engraved with an iron tool, inscribed with a flint point, on the tablets of their hearts and on the horns of their altars.

My response: I don’t want my sin written in stone

²Even their children remember their altars and Asherah poles, beside the spreading trees and on the high hills.

My response: I don’t want my dysfunction written on the hearts of my children

³My mountain in the land and your wealth and all your treasures, I will give away as plunder, together with your high places, because of sin throughout your country. ⁴Through your own fault you will lose the inheritance I gave you I will enslave you to your enemies in a land you do not know, for you have kindled my anger, and it will burn forever.”

My response: I don’t want the anger of God to be kindled through my own sinful decisions

⁵This is what the Lord says: “Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the Lord.

My response: I don’t want to trust my own strength

⁷“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.”

My response: I want to put my trust in the God who saves me

⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? ¹⁰ "I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve."

My response: I don't want to meet God in his judgment

¹¹ Like a partridge that hatches eggs it did not lay are those who gain riches by unjust means. When their lives are half gone, their riches will desert them, and in the end they will prove to be fools.

My response: I want to steward a full life that doesn't disappear half way through

¹³ Lord, you are the hope of Israel; all who forsake you will be put to shame. Those who turn away from you will be written in the dust because they have forsaken the Lord, the spring of living water.

My response: I don't want my name written in the dust

¹⁴ Heal me, Lord, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for you are the one I praise.

My response: I want to be healed and saved by God

***If God is going to rewrite my story,
I have to surrender the pen.***

Next Step: Baptism

If you've chosen to follow Jesus and would like to be baptized during one of next weekend's services, be sure to attend a baptism class this weekend (Saturday at 7:15 PM or Sunday at 12:30 PM). Details on today's program insert.

Small Group Questions

- 1) How did you spend your last birthday? Why did you celebrate it the way you did?
- 2) Depending on your age, think back to or forward to your 50th birthday. If it's ahead of you, where would you like to be by then? If it's behind you, were you where you thought you'd be by 50?
- 3) Read Jeremiah 17:1-14. Which section is the most personal for you? Why?
- 4) If you could have God rewrite a moment of your life, which moment would you choose? Why?
- 5) Where do you need God's mercy for the memories? Where do you need his healing?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?