

August 26th

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**Scripture Reading:** Jeremiah 13:1-16:9

**Memory Verse: Jeremiah 14:14** Then the LORD said to me, “The prophets are prophesying falsehood in My name. I have neither sent them nor commanded them nor spoken to them; they are prophesying to you a false vision, divination, futility and the deception of their own minds.

**Song:** “Humble Yourselves”

People often think they speak for the Lord. Like these false prophets of old, they really speak from the deception of their own minds. They do not know how to distinguish their own fantasy prophecy from what God actually has spoken.

True prophets did not speak what the false prophets did. “Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who are prophesying in My name, although it was not I who sent them—yet they keep saying, „There will be no sword or famine in this land”—by sword and famine those prophets shall meet their end! The people also to whom they are prophesying will be thrown out into the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword; and there will be no one to bury them—*neither* them, *nor* their wives, nor their sons, nor their daughters—for I will pour out their *own* wickedness on them” (14:15-16).

The false prophets were giving false hope to the people, saying to them the Lord would not punish them for their sins. False hope is cruel. The people should have been called to repentance. As it was, they had gotten so hard of heart, the Lord told Jeremiah not to pray for the welfare of this people. (14:10-11).

When rebellious people continue to sin and harden their hearts, God comes to a point when He no longer hears their prayer (Isaiah 59:1-2). May we all so live that our hearts are not hardened against God and we cross that line.

**Prayer:** “Oh Father, keep me from hardening my heart by the deceitfulness of sin. Help me to listen to You and Your Word, that I may live with You forever. Keep me in Your favor. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.”

**Thought Questions:**

Do I harden my heart against God by holding on to my sins?

Am I willing to see myself and repent of sin?

Do I listen to voices that please me rather than tell me the truth?

Do I cling to false hope?