

Forsaking Flowing Fountains for Broken Cisterns  
Jeremiah 2:13  
Jeremiah: The Christlike Prophet, Part 2

- Consider the heart of Jeremiah's message by key metaphors he made to the people, that they had forsaken the Lord but they could return.

Jeremiah 3:22; Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings.

### 1. What Have You Done? Jeremiah 2:13

- The metaphors explaining their foolish decision:
  - A. They forsook God, the "fountain of living waters"
  - B. They replaced God with "broken cisterns, that can hold no water."

Jeremiah 2:32: Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Yet my people have forgotten me days without number.  
(Married women wore a sash around her waist to show their married state)

### 2. Why Would You Do This? Jeremiah 2:23-25

- These metaphors explain why they made such a decision. They were:
  - A. **Unreliable** as a Camel wandering:
  - B. **Obsessive** as A Donkey in heat:
  - C. The application:
    - 1.) Israel sought out her idols with obsession.
    - 2.) Yet they were in blind denial regarding their addiction, v.23.
    - 3.) They pushed themselves to extremes, not caring for their obvious needs of shoes and physical strength, v.25
    - 4.) They had a hopeless attitude toward their sins, v.25b

Jeremiah 2:25b: But thou saidst: There is no hope: no; for I have loved strangers and after them will I go.

### 3. How Can You Return? Jeremiah 4:3,4

- The words "backslide" and "return" are key words in Jeremiah 3-4.

Jeremiah 3:22; Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backsliding. Behold, we come unto thee: for thou art the LORD our God.

- These metaphors show us how to return:
  - A. Break up your fallow ground, Jeremiah 4:3
  - B. Circumcise your hearts, Jeremiah 4:4

Hosea 10:12: Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for *it is* time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.