

Teach us to Pray: A Tool for Becoming

"Prayers are tools. Prayers are not tools for doing or getting, but tools for being and becoming." -Eugene Peterson

*If only my head were a pool of water
and my eyes a fountain of tears,
I would weep day and night*

for all my people who have been slaughtered.

² *¶* *Oh, that I could go away and forget my people
and live in a travelers' shack in the desert.*

*For they are all adulterers—
a pack of treacherous liars.*

³ *"My people bend their tongues like bows
to shoot out lies.*

*They refuse to stand up for the truth.
They only go from bad to worse.*

*They do not know me,"
says the Lord.*

"Beware of your neighbor!

Don't even trust your brother!

*For brother takes advantage of brother,
and friend slanders friend.*

⁵ *They all fool and defraud each other;
no one tells the truth.*

*With practiced tongues they tell lies;
they wear themselves out with all their sinning.*

⁶ *They pile lie upon lie
and utterly refuse to acknowledge me,"
says the Lord.*

Jeremiah 9:1-6 (NLT)

THE PEOPLE IN JEREMIAH'S TIME TRUSTED IN THEIR:

1. _____

*First here, then there—
you flit from one ally to another asking for help.
But your new friends in Egypt will let you down,
just as Assyria did before.
³⁷ In despair, you will be led into exile
with your hands on your heads,
for the Lord has rejected the nations you trust.
They will not help you at all.*
Jeremiah 2:36-37 (NLT)

2. _____.

*This is what the Lord says:
“Cursed are those who put their trust in mere humans,
who rely on human strength
and turn their hearts away from the Lord.
⁶ They are like stunted shrubs in the desert,
with no hope for the future.
They will live in the barren wilderness,
in an uninhabited salty land.*
Jeremiah 17:5-6 (NLT)

3. _____.

*Like a cage filled with birds,
their homes are filled with evil plots.
And now they are great and rich.
²⁸ They are fat and sleek,
and there is no limit to their wicked deeds.
They refuse to provide justice to orphans
and deny the rights of the poor.*
Jeremiah 5:27-28 (NLT)

*This is what the Lord says:
“Don’t let the wise boast in their wisdom,
or the powerful boast in their power,
or the rich boast in their riches.
²⁴ But those who wish to boast
should boast in this alone:*

*that they truly know me and understand that I am the Lord
who demonstrates unfailing love
and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth,
and that I delight in these things.
I, the Lord, have spoken!
Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NLT)*

*This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to
take away our sins.
1 John 4:10 (NLT)*

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8 (NIV)*

APPLICATION: FOCUS ON _____ PRAYERS.