

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 [b] 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.