**The Book of Jeremiah**

CHAPTER FIVE: Just One

Jeremiah is given a chance in this chapter to find *just one person* with integrity and a godly spirit. God promises that he will forgive the entire city if only one such person will come forth. Jeremiah apparently is not able to find one, and the prophecy of destruction continues. God does commit to being merciful, however, saying that the people will not be destroyed completely, as God stated in Chapter 4. The chapter ends with an ominous rhetorical question that points to future disaster.

Outline

1. Not One is Righteous 1-6
2. God’s Retort 7-31
3. Why do you deserve forgiveness? 7-9
4. The cost of disobedience 10-17
5. Yet, mercy abounds 18
6. Rhetorical questions that go unanswered 19-31

Questions for Study

1. Jeremiah can save the city if he can find one righteous person. What is this deal-making scenario reminiscent of in Genesis?
2. God continues to say, “I will not destroy you completely” (V.18) – why not? Would it not be easier to start over again? What might be the scriptural reference that would explain why total destruction is not forthcoming?
3. Who is speaking in the third verse, and when does this speaker’s dialogue end? What literary characteristic does this denote (as discussed)?

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_