

Jeremiah 17 | **Study Questions* from 28.09.2025 sermon**

*From Explore The Bible by Mike McKinley

Introduction

Imagine walking through a barren desert. Mile after mile, the only plants you see are shrivelled, wizened shrubs beaten down by the heat and wind. Then suddenly you see a lush tree loaded with fruit, thriving despite the brutal environment.

- i. What has enabled that tree to be different? How does it survive, and thrive?

The parched shrub

Read Jeremiah 17 v 1-6. Humans are either that wizened shrub or the healthy tree.

- ii. If I trust in, and depend on, myself, what else am I doing (v5)?

These verses go right against the grain of our culture. We like someone who is independent, a self-starter. We admire the man who is the master of his fate and captain of his soul (as a poet once put it). But the Lord describes this way of living as “cursed”.

- iii. Where does living like this lead (v6)?
- iv. Read Jer. 2:13-18 How were the people of Judah trusting in man instead of God?

The tree by the river

Read verses 7-8. A tree in the desert needs access to water or else it will die. The person who trusts in the Lord finds that their roots are established in a spring of life-giving water. They are able to thrive and endure despite the withering blasts that life sends their way.

- v. Look at the picture in v8. What does it show about what it means to “trust in the Lord”?

The only man we’ve seen in this book who lives like this is Jeremiah himself. Which is a great reminder that a blessed life is not the same as an easy life.

- vi. How had Jeremiah’s life shown the truth of these verses?

Application

Our world offers us a lot of different things in which to place our ultimate trust (medicine, technology, government, psychology, family etc.)

- vii. What things tempt you to trust them rather than God? What fruit has that borne in your life?
- viii. In what areas of your life do you need to trust God fully? What would it look like to grow and thrive and bear fruit in those areas?

Pray

Spend some time praying about what you’ve discussed and pray for one another.