

## February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Sermon Bible Study (Epiphany 6)

### **Sermon: Jeremiah 17:5-8**

<sup>5</sup>This is what the LORD says. Cursed is anyone who trusts in mankind, who seeks his strength from human flesh, and who turns his heart away from the LORD. <sup>6</sup>He will be like a juniper bush in the wasteland. He will not see good things when they come. He lives in a dry place in the wilderness, in a salty land where no one lives. <sup>7</sup>But blessed is anyone who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. <sup>8</sup>He will be like a tree planted by water. It sends out its roots to the stream. It does not fear the heat when it comes. Its leaves will remain green. It is not concerned about a time of drought. It does not stop producing fruit.

**Theme: Blessings are Cursed; Curses are Blessed**

**Link to Audio Sermon:**

<http://www.christlutheranwestsalem.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2-13-2022.mp3>

**SERMON:** Jeremiah 17:5-8

**Blessings are Cursed; Curses are Blessed**

### **Sermon Study Guide**

*Contemplate these questions during the sermon and feel free to write your thoughts in the blank spaces.*

- 1. The people of Israel had turned their back on the Lord. Instead of relying on his help against the invading Babylonians they turned to Egypt. For Israel, this political alliance seemed like a blessing. Why does God call them cursed?**
- 2. The people of Israel were like a bush in the wasteland. Even though the rest of the world might be blessed with “rain”, they would go without. This all goes back to their rejection of the Lord and the Lord’s rejection of them. Why are those who reject the Lord cursed even when it seems they may be receiving blessings?**
- 3. Those who trust in the Lord have complete security in his promises. When the Lord makes a promise he keeps it. The Lord always provides, delivers and responds to his people’s cry for help. What is the difference between the bush in the wasteland and the tree near the water? Or in other words, what is the difference between the one who rejects the Lord and the one who trusts in him?**
- 4. Many people believe they can go it alone in this world. They don’t want to listen to and hold to the Word of God because, in their mind, it would cause them to loose what their heart desires. How are those who think like this receiving a curse when they think they are blessed?**