

## CouplesInBloom.com – Resolving Marriage Problems

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“If you have run with footmen, and they wore you out, then how can you compete with horses? And if you trusted in the land of peace, then how will you do in the swelling of Jordan?” ⇨ Jeremiah 12:5. This chapter of the Bible has a great lesson for actually **resolving marriage problems**. It opens with a four-verse complaint about ‘**the other person being wrong**’, and that this person has ‘**God in their mouth but not in their mind.**’ **Wow**: sound familiar... maybe like one of **your** arguments recently? Just keep reading...

God’s reply to Jeremiah (via the rest of Jeremiah chapter 12 ⇨ is basically, ‘**You call this a problem???** **Let Me tell you what a problem is, why it is, and how to fix it.**’ Uh oh, Jeremiah really asked for it now! So, what *does* God say (besides ‘grow up’ ⇨ v.5)?

In verse 6, God says not to believe deceptions, which may include sweet talk ⇨ (God also uses gentleness in His answer... very wise on His part, and good advice for us!).

**Next**, God says what His people (now called the Bride of Christ) did and how the consequences progressively got worse (***and still do today... the same way***). His Bride:

- Turned against Him ⇨ v.7
- Thus caused hate towards her ⇨ v.8 (***be honest: if God can feel hate, so can you***)
- Though still His Bride, her actions rallied other enemies ⇨ v.9
- Including entire churches ⇨ v.10
- Which affected even more people ⇨ v.11
- Which led to devastation and *zero* peace ⇨ v.12 ...**talk about a problem escalating!**

**Then**, God explains what happens after a problem escalates and how to fix it:

- Her turning against her husband wrecked her reaping and made God fierce ⇨ v.13 (!)
- Therefore, ***others*** she impacted against Him ***also*** suffered from God’s anger ⇨ v.14
- But God had compassion (after much suffering) and offered them restoration ⇨ v.15
- **IF**: they diligently learn to **keep their position as God’s Bride** instead of becoming a false (unGodly) bride (*Baal* means *husband* but is a *false* god / bad for you) ⇨ v.16
- **IF THEY DON’T**: they will be **torn** and become a **wanderer**... which is **exactly** what the **hearts in a hurting marriage feel like** ⇨ v.17 (*God knows all this... firsthand!*)

**SO**: using everything we just studied: how do we **Resolve our Marriage Problems?**

1. Do **NOT** turn against your spouse, the very one you are at odds with **BECAUSE** they are your **spouse** i.e. a God-designated **position**. Everything will get worse if you do.
2. **Realize** marriage problems are **small** compared to what God wants you to deal with! Being offended by your spouse is wimpy ⇨ Jeremiah 12:5. God’s ways address your spouse e.g. ⇨ Malachi 2:14-16; **your** job is to minister light in their darkness ⇨ James 5:19-20. **Your** needs, in **that** moment, must get met through **your** intimacy with God!
3. **Learn and live** what being God’s Bride **IS**: your response to your spouse’s weakness determines if God can work through you to **resolve** your **marriage problems** or not! Jeremiah 12 ⇨ recoiling from your spouse’s weaknesses rejects God’s ways / solution to conflict. **Commit** to God’s (Scriptural) ways and be **restored** instead! ⇨ v. 16. ♥