



# Sermon Notes

**Sermon** Fountains and Cisterns

**Scripture** Jeremiah 2:10-13 NRSVue

**Preaching** Pastor John Tittle

**Date** June 28, 2026

## Discussion Questions

1. Jeremiah 2:13 describes two crimes: forsaking God as the fountain of living water and digging our own cracked cisterns that can't hold water. Why do we keep returning to what we know is broken? What is the pull of the cracked cistern even after we've experienced its emptiness?
2. The Hebrew word *hebel* means vapor or mist that dissolves into nothing — and those who pursue worthless things become worthless themselves. Where do you see modern-day *hebel* — vapor-gods that feel like living water at first but deliver nothing?
3. Eugene Peterson wrote, "The people's lives are as good as their worship." What does it mean that we become like what we treasure and pursue?
4. Jeremiah asks Israel why they've run to drink from the muddy Nile or Euphrates when God provides unlimited purified living water. What are the "Nile waters" people tend to run toward when spiritually thirsty? What do they promise versus what they actually deliver?
5. Israel kept saying "I am innocent" even as God presented the evidence (vv. 23, 35) — oblivious to their own desperation. What are the warning signs we may be drinking from cracked and tainted cisterns?
6. Verse 32 says Israel simply forgot God — it didn't even enter their minds to ask, "Where is the Lord?" How does forgetting God differ from outright rebellion? Which do you think is more dangerous in your own life?
7. In John 4, after encountering Jesus, the Samaritan woman left her water jar and ran to tell the city about Jesus' living waters. What does that abandoned jar symbolize about what happens when someone truly encounters the fountain?
8. The great hymn *Come Thou Fount* confesses: "Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it." Jeremiah's call is ultimately a call to return. What does it look like to turn our face, rather than our back, to our loving God?

## Notes