



Sermon Notes

Sermon Ask Of Old Paths

Scripture Jeremiah 6:16a NSRVue

Preaching Pastor John Tittle

Date July 5, 2026

Discussion Questions

1. Upon being elected the first president of the United States, George Washington's tour of the states was meant to help a fractured, newly formed nation see itself as one people rather than a loose collection of states. As we mark the 250th anniversary of the USA this week, how might the search for "ancient paths" apply not only to individuals but to a nation trying to remember its identity and values?
2. Jeremiah tells the people to "stand at the crossroads and look." What does it look like for us to pause and truly consider before choosing a direction in life, rather than drifting along a path by default?
3. Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann says the "ancient paths" aren't a nostalgic return to "the good old days," but a "radical and dangerous memory" that subverts present complacency. How might returning to old, time-tested truth feel dangerous or radical rather than comfortable?
4. Israel replaced obedience in life with sacrifice in the temple — going through religious motions or even using sacrifices to "wring blessings out of God" while living however they wanted outside the temple in the real world. Why do the Scriptures emphasize that God desires obedience over the offering of sacrifice?
5. The ancient paths Jeremiah mentions allude to not only God's Word, but also God's path through the Red Sea that led Israel like a flock from captivity to freedom. How might God's ancient and time-tested paths lead us forward to a new future?
6. Jesus, who called Himself the way, also said "This is the way, walk in it." How is following Christ different from simply admiring Him from a distance or agreeing with His teachings intellectually?
7. Christianity is more a movement than a monument. What's the difference between a living, walking faith and a faith that has become static or merely commemorative?
8. The ancient path is described as the good way. In what ways is it good?
9. Verse 16 says that the good way provides "rest for your souls." What tends to rob you of that soul-rest, and how might walking in God's way restore it?
10. Israel's response to God's invitation was simply, "We will not walk in it." Where might that same refusal show up in your own life — a place where you know the good way but are resisting it? What would it take to respond differently?

Notes