

Part 1

Teens In Crisis

#1 killer of teens - traffic accidents

#2 killer of teens - suicide

30% to 60% of teens in America are going to go through

- pain of loss
- conflict of loyalty
- guilt of parental divorce

Suicide has become a way out

In 1984

- 3,000-5000 teens commit suicide every year
- 50,000-100,000 attempt suicide
- 200,000-300,000 think about committing suicide

In 1986 in the book “Fatal Choice”

- about 2,000,000 people will attempt suicide
- 30,000 people will take their own life
- 1 person every 20 minutes
- 70 persons every day

I. Four reasons why teenagers will attempt suicide

a. There is a pressure to succeed

i. Live in a mobile society

ii. We don't have roots

iii. Need to fit in

iv. Commercialism

v. Pressure for good grades – no way to please parents

vi. Less leeway to make mistakes and fail

1. anyone who is really successful is going to fail

2. failure is part of success

b. to make choices you shouldn't have to make

i. drugs

ii. sexual relationships

iii. alcohol

iv. when you make those wrong choices there is a tendency to walk away from life

c. family problems

i. parents are quarreling and you have to take sides

ii. Mom is working – you need to keep house

iii. Financial problems

d. Uncertainty about the future

i. Will you ever be able to have one husband or wife and a normal home

ii. Will you be able to have a future

iii. Are you in danger when you travel

iv. Uncertainty about our economy

v. Uncertainty about our safety

II. Is there a healing for what hurts?

a. Jeremiah

i. Background – time of pressure

1. the kingdom (Israel) had split

a. northern kingdom

i. took the name of Israel

ii. 10 tribes

iii. set up idol to worship

iv. taken captive 722 BC

b. southern kingdom

i. took the name Judah

ii. 2 tribes

iii. saw what happened

iv. developed their own religion

v. God sent prophets to warn them

vi. Jeremiah was one of the last prophets

vii. Fell into captivity in 586 BC

idol is something
put between you
and God

Causes of teenage suicide

- * have lost their religious values
- * no longer have a belief in the word of God and the person of Jesus Christ
- * have nothing to hold them in the midst of a crisis
- * your relationship to God is where you will find the answers to handle all the pressures

Draw map and label showing split

2. Jeremiah is prophesying to a people who had turned their backs to God

b. Jeremiah 8:5-21

i. Vs 5 - Apostasy – I believe everything that God says and then to say I don't believe that anymore

1. Judah had refused to turn to the Lord

2. if you don't know what you believe and why you believe it you will be thrown to the dogs

3. when you get to college no one else's faith will hold you

ii. vs 6 - they didn't say what have I done

1. they were charging right toward hell

2. no one stopped them

3. didn't want to be stopped

4. when you get started in a sin – you don't stop to think where you are going, and where this will take you

iii. vs 7 - they don't know what God says

1. how many study the word of God

2. how many realize that God made you for Himself

3. how many of you realize that you are not here for your own pleasure but for God's pleasure

4. you're not here on this earth so that you can be happy but so that you can be holy

5. If you don't stand you are going to be one of those teens in crisis

6. if you don't get you act together then you eventually the pressures of the world can overtake you

iv. vs 8-9 – the lying pens of the scribes have made the word of God into a lie

1. the people depended on the scribes

2. they hold to a superior knowledge that says there are errors in the word of God

3. the minute they take away the word of God, they have taken away your foundation and you will be a teen in crisis

v. vs 10

1. there will be a lot of divorce
2. fields to new owners
3. everyone is greedy for gain
4. everyone practices deceit
5. we become greedy for gain and money becomes our god we put the tag of Christianity on it God wants you prosperous – THAT IS NOT TRUE – God wants you holy

vi.vs 11 – they heal the wounds superficially

1. there is no peace
2. most kids that committed suicide – their parents didn't even know they were hurting

vii.vs 12 – they were not ashamed and didn't know how to blush

1. the majority of teenage guys say there is nothing wrong with pre-marital sex
2. What does the Bible say?
 - a. Heb 13:4 – fornicators and adulterers God will judge
 - b. Sex outside marriage is a sin
3. you get so used to the sin that you forget how to blush
4. there is incredibly immoral things on television and nobody blushes anymore
5. we live in a society that is so messed up, we have forgotten how to blush
6. they were not ashamed of what they had done

viii.vs 14-15 – the attitude of the people

1. why don't we just die, why don't we just give up
2. there is no hope for us
3. we want healing we're not going to be healed
4. we want peace there's not going to be any peace
5. that is not the attitude we are to have
6. is there healing for the child of God?

ix.Vs 18-21 – God's question

1. My people are all messed up
2. Do you have a sorrow that is beyond healing?
3. Is there not a King in Zion?
4. Why are they worshipping those things instead of worshipping Me?

5. Why are they running to those things to get healing instead of coming to Me?

x. Vs 21-22 – Jeremiah’s response

1. Is there healing for my people – is there a balm in Gilead?

2. Is there a physician there to heal them?

3. Is there no one who can see all the wounds inside and heal me?

a. Jer 17:14 – Heal my, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, O God, and I shall be saved. For Thou art my praise.

4. Is there a balm in Gilead? YES – it is the word of God

a. Ps 107:6, 10-13, 17-20

b. There is a balm in Gilead

c. Rebellion can get you into all kinds of trouble

d. He sent His word and healed them

e. Balm – a healing salve (anointment)

f. The balm of Gilead - is the word of God

g. The word of God has the answer to every hurt, every pain, every question, every pressure, every confusion that you will ever meet

h. Is there a balm in Gilead? YES

i. Is there a Great Physician there? YES

j. His name is Jehovah Rapha

i. Ex 15:25-26

1. the people go to drink the water but they can’t because it was bitter

2. Moses threw a tree in and the water became sweet

3. I am the Lord Your Healer

4. first time you see this name is in a bitter water situation – God can take the cross of Christ (tree) and put it into any bitter situation in your life and He can heal you (make it sweet)