

““You say, ‘That’s not true! I haven’t worshiped the images of Baal!’ But how can you say that? Go and look in any valley in the land! Face the awful sins you have done. You are like a restless female camel desperately searching for a mate.” Jeremiah 2:23 NLT

## [lectio] // JEREMIAH 2:23-37

listen to the text by reading out loud slowly and repeat up to 3x if desired

First of all, can you imagine getting this message from God to deliver to the King and all of Israel? Oh boy. So God flag out compares Israel to a horny camel or a hot-to-trot female donkey. That’s interesting, or funny or embarrassing or I have no idea what emotion that fosters. I see myself, my humanness so clearly in Jeremiah’s words, “When will you stop running? When will you stop panting after other gods? But you say, ‘Save your breath. I’m in love with these foreign gods, and I can’t stop loving them now!’” Ugh, how true. I’ve already committed, already invested, carved my path (or my grave) - how can I stop now? It’s my love, he/she is my life, I can’t stop now. What a heartbreaking moment of truth that God gives words to Israel’s emotions! IT IS TOO LATE! Is it? I’m asking because I’ve seen the damage of decisions not just made once, but several times over where it just becomes the new normal. Can someone change? Can someone stop, return and make new life choices? I know the short, simple answer is yes, because God redeems and transforms. But, how many take that offer and make it stick? Apparently, it’s not as easy as everyone says. Some made that decision to change, some repented - but only a fraction in comparison to the entire nation.

## [oratio]

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

This is pretty depressing when I think about how grand your love is and how patient your mercy is but still we make decisions that echo the words, “I can’t stop loving them now!” Oh, how that must hurt to hear those words from your beloved. Such depth of betrayal and sorrow. I can only hope that I do not become a horny camel or donkey in heat for the wooden, man made idols in my own life. Keep me Lord, hold me in your faithfulness, let me not wander from your love.

## [contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root