**WOODLANDS CHURCH**

**September 10th 2017. Prophecy in a time of crisis**

**Discussion notes: Prophetic confrontation Jeremiah 13. Jeremiah 18.**

Jeremiah’s calling is ‘to pluck up and break down, to build and to plant’ phrase that occur (1:10) throughout the book. His call is to confront as well as to comfort the people of Judah. Very often it is crisis that provokes prophecy. Here the nation is oblivious to the crisis they are in spiritually and will be politically soon.

1. We often talk about prophecy being to ‘encourage, edify and comfort’ (1 Corinthians 14:3). What is the place if any for prophetic confrontation?
2. What are good reasons to confront? What gives someone the right and authority to confront?
3. What authority did Jeremiah have, and how did he use it? How did the use of prophetic symbols help him get his message across?
4. What would you confront in our nation today? What symbols might be appropriate to get people’s attention? Can you think of any contemporary prophetic actions where this has happened?
5. What did Jeremiah have to say to prophets who prophesied ‘peace’ in a time of crisis? Are we too reluctant to confront in our culture? Is prophetic confrontation an old testament dynamic or is it relevant today? Where do we see it in the New Testament?

Paul tells us to follow the way of love and eagerly desire prophetic gifts. How vital is love as the ground for any confrontation? What is the difference between confrontation and condemnation?