

7/6/2025

Sermon – Jeremiah, The Weeping Prophet (wk 2 of Pastor's Heroes)

Scripture – Jeremiah 1:4-10, Jeremiah 20:7-18

Main Message – His passion for people even through constant ridicule and rejection is a persistence that is filled with love.

Read Jeremiah 1:4-10. Jeremiah saw the doom coming because God had chosen him to be a prophet. In today's terms he would be the guy out on the street corner with a sign saying, "Repent, for the hour of judgement is nigh!" The difference might be that Jeremiah was chosen by God and at a young age. His writings were also read by Daniel who actually did go into captivity.

From a Pastor's perspective, I have a lot of respect for Jeremiah. He was living at a time which was often a spiritual wasteland. The people of Judah only gave lip-service to God and didn't follow the true spirit of God's Holy Laws. He never gave up. He never quit. He used the example of the destruction of the northern kingdom of Shiloh as an example of what could happen 400 years prior. Mostly, no one listened. The book of lamentations comes from Jeremiah. I think that is how he poured out his grief over his people. When you know something that is of vital importance and no one listens, the temptation is to give up. Jeremiah never did. It was not an easy life, but it definitely was a God honoring one.

Read Jer 20:7-18 – This is incredible, real, honest and quite sobering. Another reason why I like Jeremiah is that he was genuine. I'm doing the job, I don't always want to do the job, there is often no joy because I am ridiculed, and yet I am bonded to serving the Lord. They threw him in a dungeon without food and King Zedekiah had to command they get him out. Nobody wanted to listen.

Read Jer 26:12-15 – He spoke the truth to the people and to the leaders/princes. He told them and told them. His words were so unpopular that many wanted to simply see him shut up, permanently. It's getting like that today. No one wants to be faced with the truth especially when it is calling out their sin. Jeremiah called out the sins of the nation at large and the people didn't like it. What was their sin?

- 1) Idolatry and worship of False Gods like Baal and Molech and they participated in child sacrifices. Today, we might call that the Abortion crisis. What happens if you call out people for killing children. They attack you and ridicule you. Its touted as health care.
- 2) Moral Injustice was rampant against widows, orphans, foreigners, the poor and all who could not easily defend themselves. They exploited them all. Work for little or no pay, scammed those who were vulnerable. Today we see scammers about preying on anyone and everyone. Justice, He who has the money and connections, will never be held to account any longer.
- 3) False Worship and Hypocrisy. Oh, they went to the temple and went through the motions by attendance and sacrifices when there was no heart in the matter. Gee, I wonder of that happens today?
- 4) And of course rejecting God's prophets and the warnings and counsel they brought. The prophets were mocked, ridiculed and sometimes killed for speaking the truth. Ultimately the prophets were correct, but the people didn't listen. This is my biggest heartache these days.

Anyone living today could be a Jeremiah. The trick is doing it year after year, decade after decade regardless of the current king or administration. WE all need to feel as committed as Jeremiah to speaking out the truth. One day, sudden destruction will come upon us all.