

Jeremiah 20
“It’s Too Much: The Call to Suffer”

AS YOU SETTLE IN PLEASE TURN TO **Jeremiah 20**...

LET’S PRAY -

INTRO -

NOTE TAKERS I’VE TITLED TONIGHT MESSAGE: **“Its Too Much!”**

IF YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH JEREMIAH YOU KNOW THAT JEREMIAH WAS A YOUNG GUY

- God does not discriminate based on age...
 - Neither does he discriminate on talent.

JEREMIAH HAS A VERY UNPOPULAR MESSAGE

- He had the grim duty to oversee the death of a nation
 - Effectiveness in God’s kingdom does not equate to popularity on earth.
- Jeremiah had a contradictory message to the other prophets who claimed to speak for God.
 - They likely said that Jeremiah was ruining the moral of the soldiers.
 - But that wasn’t what God told Jeremiah to do

IF YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE BOOK...

- Chapter 18 Jeremiah has this remarkable experience the the potter house God makes it clear to Jeremiah about the freedom that God has as the potter to shape and make things as He pleases
 - Then God told Jeremiah to take a clay bottle and to break it use it as an illustration in a sermon
 - God and they there were very ripe for the judgement of God

HERE HOW THAT SERMON WENT:

(READ V 1-6 NLT)

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IDEA 1 - A Broken Man

JEREMIAH’S REWARD FOR OBEYING TO THE LORD...

- This was a torture devise...
- Worst yet the stocks were located in a prominent place in the temple area in order to add shame to the pain
 - He was always ridiculed for what he was saying but up to this point this was his first time he was physically abused

PASHUR THE PRIEST NAME MEANS PLEASANT

- This is a sharp contrast to the name Jeremiah gives him... “The man who lives in terror”
 - If you have a cancer and tip toe around the issue It doesn't just magically go away
 - There are some other prosperity gospel preachers who tell people “God wants you to be rich, God want you to drive the best car” when those things just ensnare us.
 - 2 Tim 4:3-5 NLT
 - When your in the hospital and you need urgent medical attention you don't want a doctor that's going to pretend like everything is alright
 - Leadership is defined not only by your actions but by what you refuse to tolerate
- Many times the council you will get from the pastors here may be hard but are necessary for your spiritual health
 - 1 Thes 5:12 NLT The bible tells us that “Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord’s work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance.”
 - Why? Because “They watch out for your soul” Heb 13:17

JEREMIAH GOES ON TO PREACH FOR 4-5 DECADES

- And honestly we would describe his ministry as unsuccessful and unfruitful.

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- Fruit is not measured by activity or influence but by faithfulness and obedience
- There was a Survey that was conducted in which thousands of people were asked...
 - “If you won the lottery, would you quit your job?”
 - 45.4% responded definitely
 - 18.9% answered probably
 - Only 10% answered Definitely not

(READ V 7-10 NKJV)

IDEA 2 - Fuel Behind the Fire

NOTE THAT THIS IS A PERSONAL PRAYER OF BROKENNESS TO THE LORD AND NOT A PUBLIC TEACHING

- Its Raw, Emotional, sometimes incorrect, and uncomfortable to read
 - He is saying “I quit!, This wasn't in the Job description. I've had enough Lord, It's too much!”
 - Jeremiah is being real before God with all of his emotions... and he had a lot of emotions...
 - It is always better to cry out to the Lord in anger than to go dark on God
 - Be real with him!
- [Spurgeon saying]

JEREMIAH HAD EVERY REASON TO QUIT

- But his source of drive and motivation didnt come from his success, his popularity, or his emotions
 - It was steadfast faithfulness to God’s Word even in the pain and the unknown

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- The fuel for his fire and drive came from the Lord
 - Psalm 119:50 NKJV “This is my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life.”
- Jeremiah a couple chapters back said that “The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?” Jeremiah 17:9 NLT
 - Feeling are real, they just don’t always tell us the truth
 - Jeremiah based the direction of his life on the Word of God even in spite of his feelings
 - [Car Illustration]
 - Yet if the wrong fuel is used devastation is to follow.

THE WORD HAS TOLD US THE YOUR BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- The Holy Spirit chooses to live in you!
 - John 14:26 NLT
 - The Holy spirit lives in us teaches and bring to remembrance God’s word to us
 - There are a couple of applications for us to take away from this...
 - 1. God is always trying to teach you
 - 2. You can't remember what you haven't learned
 - (Are you spending time in God’s Word?)
 - King David wrote, “I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.” Psalm 119:11 NLT

I WORK IN THE CORPORATE WORLD FOR ONE OF THE LARGEST COMPANY IN THE WORLD

- I know too many people who keep a letter of resignation in their desk

IDEA 3 - The Christian Call to Suffering

(READ V 11-18 NLT)

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WELL THAT WAS ENCOURAGING...

- Remember Jeremiah was a broken man. He had large mood swings
 - He went from expressing courage, to wanting to quit, to seeking revenge, then to rejoicing in worship and finally mourning the day he was born
 - Even saying that he wishes he died in the womb...
 - Remember what God told him when he commissioned him...
 - **Jeremiah 1:4-5 NLT**
 - God knew of all of the suffering Jeremiah would have to face, he knew of the loneliness, and he knew the pain

FLIP OVER THE THE NT TO ACTS 9

- Here Saul is persecuting the church and while he is hunting and trying to kill Christians on the road to Damascus he was blinded by God.
 - God told him to go into the city and he will meet a man there that will restore his sight.
 - **Acts 9:15-16 NLT**
 - Paul was used in an incredible way by God but he did suffer...
 - **2 Cor 11:22-27 NLT**
 - I wonder when God first called Paul. If you were to tell him everything that would happen to him you be able to talk Paul out of it?
 - If you look at his life he started as a man who tried to destroy the church to a man who was concerned for all of the churches... You ask what happened to that guy in the middle and the answer: Suffering
 - Suffering is what transformed him in the middle of pain.

OFTEN IT'S IN THE VALLEY THAT GOD DOES HIS TRANSFORMATIVE WORK IN OUR LIVES

- Yet Paul says “None of these things move me” This is part of the spiritual maturity process.

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- You’ll be stronger when you are weak because you will have no other option than to depend on me
 - Its like your tires in the winter, When the cold comes your tire pressure goes down. And you need to fill up your tires
 - Atmosphere is a big part of your life and the conditions around you can indeed affect you but that's why you need to me constantly and continually filled with the spirit

IN THE BOOK OF MATTHEW 16:13-14NLT JESUS TALKS TO THIS DISCIPLES:

- Take note of this...
 - The people compared Jesus to (Matt 16:13-14):
 - 1. John the Baptist, a crazy wild man
 - 2. Elijah, who asked God to take his life
 - 3. Jeremiah, Who is called the Weeping prophet
 - This is our Lord.
 - Jesus wept for those hurting, and looked upon Jerusalem and said, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God’s messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn’t let me.” Matthew 23:37 NLT

WE SEE ONE FOR THE OTHER PROPHETS PROPHESYING ABOUT JESUS DEATH IN ISAIAH 53:3-10 NLT

WE SERVE A SUFFERING SERVANT

- The Pain and suffering we experience is directly related to our abiding in Christ
 - The goal of the christian is to be more and more like Christ and less like ourselves
 - Warren Weirsbe writes “he did not stop the crucifixion: he rose from the dead. We want God to solve the problems of suffering by the method of substitution – give us health instead of pain,

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wealth, instead of poverty, friendship, instead of loneliness – when his approach is to use the method of transformation. He transformed Paul’s weakness into strength and his suffering into glory.”

CALL WORSHIP UP -

APPLICATION

- May we come back to the word to be our drive and motivation... especially when we feel low.
- My prayer for you is that you would be filled with the spirit.
- Many of you here may be struggling or suffering with something in your life. I want to encourage you with this...
 - Romans 8:18 says “Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.”

PRAY