

JEREMIAH PART IV

APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2022

INTRODUCTION

- Jeremiah lived during some of the worst years in Israel's history.
- Last week we talked about how God deals with our wandering and how He rebuilds and restores.
- God was about to discipline Israel by sending them into captivity for 70 years in Babylon 575BC.
- For 40 years Jeremiah had been telling Israel to turn back to God or fall, and they fell.

I. TOSSED TO AND FRO

- Jeremiah loved his people and he struggled with telling them judgement is coming.
- He was often tossed around by his emotions.
- Our emotions ebb and flow, but our faith is to be steadfast, immovable and always abounding.
- Jeremiah 20:11, "But the Lord is with me like a powerful champion; therefore my persecutors will stumble and not prevail. They will be put to great shame because they have failed."
- Jeremiah 20:14-15, 17-18, "Cursed be the day when I was born...¹⁸Why did I ever come out of the womb to look at trouble and sorrow, so that my days have been spent in shame?"
- That doesn't sound like a very stable guy.
- One of the great struggles Jeremiah had was loneliness.

II. BEWARE OF YOUR EMOTIONS

- Jeremiah was under intense pressure and pressure can throw your emotions into havoc.

- The only way you can grow spiritually is if you get control of your emotions.
- Turn from man to God; from feelings to faith.
- Jeremiah 17:14 - Jeremiah survived by the power of the Holy Spirit working in him.
- Establish yourself in Him each day. Yield to His Spirit and invite the Spirit to work in you.

III. OBEYING WHEN IT IS HARD

- There are times God calls us all to say something hard.
- Jeremiah 20:9, "But *if* I say, "I will not...speak anymore in His name," then in my heart it becomes like a burning fire...and I cannot endure *it*."
- Not an outer coercion, but an inner conviction worked by the Spirit of God.
- Key: 2 Corinthians 5:14, "For Christ's love compels us..."

IV. LIVING FOR GOD IN DIFFICULT DAYS

- Jeremiah is a great example of how to live for God in tough situations.
- Jeremiah 26:1-24 tells a story that pretty much sums up the journey Jeremiah lived.
- He walked in the Spirit and spoke openly about those who didn't.
- The safest place for any of us is in the will of God.
- These people wanted Jeremiah dead, but he walked away at that point alive.

CLOSE

- Luke 11:45-52 NLT, "What sorrow awaits you Pharisees! ...you ignore justice and the love of God..."