

Jeremiah: The Weeping Prophet

What are you known for in life? “She makes the best peach cobbler; he is an avid UT or UK fan; or they know how to smoke tender brisket.” Every person has a story.

Acts 4:13 reveals a significant compliment. People looked at uneducated, common men and said, “You’ve been with Jesus.” What do people say about you and me? Do they say, “He lives intimate with Jesus; she walks with the Lord; or they worship Jesus with passion and surrender.” In fifty years, people won’t talk about you or me. However, they will talk about Jesus. May Jesus always be the hero of our lives and stories!

God calls many people into ministry early in life. Jeremiah was set apart as a “*prophet to the nations*” even before he was conceived (1:5). His four-decade ministry was centered in Judah (Southern Kingdom). From the beginning, God left no room for question. Jeremiah would have a tough ministry. Cruel opposition would look him in the eyes. Saying “yes” to God’s call doesn’t mean an easy road in ministry. God stills calls people to serve Him and make Him known in churches that are **divided, declining, and dead**. He still leads people to be on mission for Him in countries that are **dangerous**. In the American church, we’ve almost lost a theology of suffering. Suffering is often a pathway to sanctification.

Jeremiah was known as “The Weeping Prophet.” Why did Jeremiah weep? People refused to listen to his message and turn back to God. Destruction was at their door. The Bible gives us more insights about Jeremiah’s personal life than any other prophet. What’s the longest book in the Bible? What’s the second longest book in the Bible?

Is there a need for revival among God’s people? Can you and I relate to Jeremiah’s message and ministry?

1. The Sanctity of _____. Does our culture value life? Sanctity of life isn’t merely a political issue. It’s a biblical issue. God creates life, and we’re to protect life. David knew that he was “*fearfully and wonderfully made*” (Psalm 139:14). Pronouns communicate a powerful message. Notice what God says in Jeremiah 1:4-7. Life and ministry always begin with God.

- I _____ you
- I _____ you
- I _____ you
- I _____ you
- I _____ you
- I _____ you
- I am _____ you

2. The Foolishness of _____. God repeatedly used Jeremiah to warn Israel to stop their sinful behavior, but they refused to listen. Jeremiah preached his heart out without seeing

any real, lasting success. My heart hurts for preachers who preach in places that produce little to no apparent fruit. Nevertheless, they come week after week with a fresh Word from the Lord. Here's what we know; God's Word will not return void (Isaiah 55:10-11). You and I need to be careful with sin. As preachers used to say, "Sin will take you farther than you want to go, it will keep you longer than you want to stay, and it will cost you more than you want to pay."

3. The Disobedience of _____. Many pastors are living disobedient. Ministry is more about them than the Lord. As God led, Jeremiah had strong words against those serving and leading in ministry (10:21). Many pastors are struggling behind closed doors. As I sit at the Lord's feet and talk with other pastors, I share that He desires two things from us.

- We're to look like the _____ (Romans 8:29)
- We're to smell like the _____ (Proverbs 27:23)

4. The Emotions of _____. Are you and I honest with God? As I've said before, "God can handle our honesty." Jeremiah poured out his heart to the Lord. He remembered God's call; he commented on his detractors; he despised the day of his birth; he despised his life; and he wanted to stop preaching and leave the ministry. Jeremiah was an emotional mess. However, he couldn't walk away from the call of God (20:9). What's keeping you up at night? What's causing many people in ministry to walk away from their assignments? How can you and I build up God's servants, not tear them down?

5. The Magnificence of _____. Grace is amazing! God's grace saves us (Ephesians 2:8-10), equips us (1 Corinthians 15:10), and sustains us (2 Corinthians 12:9). God wanted His people to experience grace and forgiveness. He promised them a future (29:11-13). Is there hope for our nation? Is there hope for churches? God wants to revive His people and heal our land! Our everlasting hope is in Him, not in politics, economics, or sports. As God led, Jeremiah declared a strong, faithful message about the magnificence of God's grace.

6. The Value of _____. I'm thankful that our church is committed to preaching and teaching God's Word. God's call to Jeremiah was to preach His Word. Jeremiah declared the Word of the Lord in places and to people that cost him dearly. Even in our modern, secular culture, God uses the preaching and teaching of His Word. Paul stated that God used the foolishness of preaching to save those who believe (1 Corinthians 1:21). Preaching isn't always easy; preaching isn't always popular; and preaching isn't always obeyed. As Jeremiah modeled, the preacher's task is to preach the Word and leave the results to God.

7. The Invitation of _____. God invites you and me to do many things. He calls us to turn from our sin and trust His Son as our Savior; He expects us to follow Him in believer's baptism; He leads us to unite with a local church; He welcomes us to live with an awareness of His presence; and He desires for you and me to relate to Him in intimate ways. Jeremiah was in prison, and God gave him a personal invitation. God invited His servant into a conversation. And as we know, you can't have a conversation with God and stay the same. Jeremiah 33:3 is God's phone number. When was the last time you called Him?

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- I **formed** you
- I **knew** you
- I **consecrated** you
- I **appointed** you
- I **send** you
- I **command** you
- I am **with** you

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- We're to smell like the **sheep** (Proverbs 27:23)

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