

## Use the life of Jeremiah as an example

Reading through recently and it struck me that he was faced with the same struggle

### The day in which Jeremiah lived

- See **Jer 1:1-3 (ESV)** *(1) The words of Jeremiah, the son of Hilkiah, one of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, (2) to whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. (3) It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, and until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah, the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the captivity of Jerusalem in the fifth month.*
- This may not mean much - but see that last line... until the captivity
- Israel had already fallen to the Assyrians
- Now the Babylonians threaten Judah
- There's lots of false prophets who say God will deliver the nation
- There's a false sense of security - because the temple is in Jerusalem

### The job God gave him

- **Jer 1:9-10 (ESV)** *(9) Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. (10) See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."*
- God calls him to speak to the nations!

## In this message

### Text

- I was reading this verse and the message came together
- **Jer 37:14 (ESV)** *(14) And Jeremiah said, "It is a lie; I am not deserting to the Chaldeans." But Irijah would not listen to him, and seized Jeremiah and brought him to the officials.*
- He was trying to go home - they accuse him of deserting
- He's preached that they should desert!
- He's chosen to stay with them, even though the wrath of God is coming
- He gets arrested for that!

### **So many truths from his life=**

- I want to look at three specific things about Jeremiah's life and ministry
- Apply them to us!
- **Note:** Lot's of references to Jeremiah - trust you to know them or look them up!

## **Message**

### **He interceded on their behalf**

#### **He wept over their coming judgment**

- Jeremiah is known as the *weeping prophet*
- See **Jer 9:1 (ESV)** (1) *Oh that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!*
- He saw God's judgment approaching, and he intercedes
- Her 14, he asks the Lord - **Jer 14:8 (ESV)** (8) *O you hope of Israel, its savior in time of trouble, why should you be like a stranger in the land, like a traveler who turns aside to tarry for a night?*
- The Lord tells him to pray for the captives!

#### **He prayed for them until God said don't**

- Three times God warns him not to pray for the people
- **Jer 7:16 (ESV)** (16) *"As for you, do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer for them, and do not intercede with me, for I will not hear you.*
- **Jer 11:14 (ESV)** (14) *"Therefore do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer on their behalf, for I will not listen when they call to me in the time of their trouble.*
- **Jer 14:11 (ESV)** (11) *The LORD said to me: "Do not pray for the welfare of this people.*
- **Thought:** God has abandoned them for his wrath - and tells Jeremiah to cease praying for them!

#### **Our part: If my people**

- Fortunately it's not too late for America
- **2 Chron 7:14 (ESV)** (14) *if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*
- We are to pray for this nation! To lift her up

- **Note:** Not if my people protest, or if my people get the right person in office. If my people pray

## He used God's gifts to serve them

### Specifically called/placed by God

- We read part of the call during the opening
- God specifically calls and equips Jeremiah
- **Jer 1:5 (ESV)** (5) *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."*
- God *hardened his head*
- God spoke to him - training them to hear His word

### Continually offered God's message to them

- Regardless of how they treated him - he kept speaking the truth to them in love
- When he tried to stop - because it only brought him trouble - **Jer 20:9 (ESV)** (9) *"If I say, 'I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,' there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot."*

### Our part: Go ye

- We are not to withdraw, but engage
- We know the great commission: **Matt 28:19-20 (ESV)** (19) *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*
- Jesus calls us salt and light - we have a job to do!
- Lord fill us with your Spirit like fire shut up in our bones

## He persisted in spite of their response

### See their response to the message

- Consistently refused to repent
- Over and over again, God warned them - and they refused to listen
- **Note:** there were lots of other voices/false prophets

### **See their reaction to the messenger**

- They mocked and ridiculed him - nickname *Terror on every side*
- They arrested him and threw him in a pit

### **See God's faithful care for Jeremiah**

Even though times were tough for Jeremiah - God took care of him

### ***Ministered to him when he was discouraged***

- Jeremiah got discouraged
- Complained to God about their treatment of him!
- God didn't reject him!

### ***Rescued him from the pit***

- Raised up a man to speak to the king on his behalf

### ***Spared him during captivity***

- When the Babylonians finally broke thru Jeremiah was spared
- When the revolt came and they fled to Egypt (in spite of Jeremiah telling them not too - again he was spared!

### **Our part: In this world you will have trouble**

- **Point:** God is able to care for us when we do his will
- **John 16:33 (ESV)** (33) *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*"
- **Acts 28:31 (ESV)** (31) *proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.*
- In the Beatitudes, Jesus pronounces this blessing: **Matt 5:10-12 (ESV)** (10) *"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (11) "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. (12) Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

## **Closing**

