



Series: Bible Survey

Lesson: 34. Jeremiah B

- **Review**

- Jeremiah covered and spoke to the depressing and faithless last generations of Judah before the Exile.
- His book is comprised of ~21 distinct messages that dictated (at least in part) to Baruch and then compiled out of chronological order to show the development of important themes and repeated messages God was trying to emphasize during that time.
- Main themes covered so far:
 - God's value of covenants

- **The _____ of proclaiming God's Word**

- Jeremiah's 40-year prophetic ministry only produced two recorded converts, yet he was clearly in God's will during his entire (visibly) fruitless ministry.
- Instead, he received active physical opposition from the people who *supposed* to be God's people.

- The people were so blinded by sin that they didn't just ignore messages from God; they actively _____ them (e.g., 44:15–19).
- What the people were really interested in were false prophets telling them everything would work out okay despite ignoring everything God said (but cp. ch23...).

2 Tim. 4:3–4 – For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,⁴ and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

- Jeremiah is burdened by the call to proclaim God's Word so that he is torn between his dread of both the need to share it and the consequences that will follow.

*Jer. 20:8–9 – For each time I speak, I cry aloud;
I proclaim violence and destruction,
Because for me the word of the Lord has resulted
In reproach and derision all day long.
⁹But if I say, "I will not remember Him
Or speak anymore in His name,"
Then in my heart it becomes like a burning fire
Shut up in my bones;
And I am weary of holding it in,
And I cannot endure it.*

- Not all of us are called to be pastors, but all of us *are* burdened to proclaim God's Word, *especially* when it's not popular and *especially* to the people who claim to be godly but are actually _____, knowing that we may suffer consequences for it.

- **The need to submit to God's _____**

- This can mean submitting to God's *volitional* will (i.e., what _____ God), but in Jeremiah, there is a particular emphasis on submitting to God's *decreed* will (i.e., what God has _____ will happen).
- In several passages, Jeremiah admonishes the people to recognize God's will is judgment against the unrepentant nation and city, so they will actually be blessed if they go along with the consequences instead of resisting them (starting in ch21)
 - He shows in chapter 24 that the Exile was actually a form of God's grace to remove the faithful to a place of safety before the violent judgment that came with the destruction of Jerusalem and the difficult conditions that followed.
 - The human tendency seen throughout Jeremiah is to deny God's Word when it contradicts our expectations (e.g., ch26).
 - The message of chapters 27 & 28 is that when nations or prophets try to resist God's decree, it only makes things harder.

- Chapter 29 begins with reassurance to the exiles that they are in God's will even though things aren't going 'according to plan,' (hence why they should settle in instead of resist), and then God reassures them that He has a larger plan that won't leave them there forever so that they will stop listening to the false prophets encouraging them to resist and/or have false hope (addressed in the latter half of the chapter).
- What Jeremiah shows us about submitting to God's will:
 - God's will for us may involve circumstances we didn't want, but resisting them because we're too attached to *our* vision for our lives instead of God's will only make things worse.
 - Even if God does give us hardships in life, a) they're still ultimately blessing us, and b) God ultimately has a plan for us that will result in far better blessings.

Discussion:

1. How can we be encouraged by such an 'unsuccessful' ministry as Jeremiah's?
2. Why does God give us unfavorable circumstances instead of just blessing us in every way all the time?

FOR REFLECTION: What parts of your life are you stuck resenting your circumstances instead of embracing them as God's will? How do you need to approach them differently?

Blanks: burden, contradicted, hypocrites, will, pleases, decided