

Obedient Faith

Ephesians 6:13 (NET)

^{6:13} For this reason, take up the full armor of God so that you may be able to stand your ground on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand.

In difficult times, at all times, we must be walking completely with God to see it through.

- There are many who frankly quit on God if He does not make everything work the way that they would like it to be.
- Many also like to think that their life is not any of God's business!

In the book of Jeremiah, we see him - (Called at a very young age, commissioned to do God's work, He did not marry due to the severity of the times and his task, never really saw a convert, was rejected by his people, imprisoned as a traitor due to his speaking of the truth, wanted to quit but could not)

- Tradition says that he was stoned by a group in Egypt.
- He was given a harsh message of God's judgement and yet he had a soft heart.
- He literally saw the people and country he loved go into captivity.
- Yet, in every circumstance we see this message from God. (So what is the problem ?)

Jeremiah 3:22 (NET)

^{3:22} Come back to me, you wayward people.

I want to cure your waywardness.

Say, 'Here we are. We come to you because you are the Lord our God.'

1. He prophesied against a backslidden nation-

Jeremiah 1:12 (NET)

^{1:12} Then the Lord said, "You have observed correctly. This means I am watching to make sure my threats are carried out."

A.) Jeremiah loved his country but knew that they were in trouble. (God is watching)

B.) Like Jeremiah, we live in a great country, but our proclamation of God's truth seems to be falling on a lot of deaf ears.

C.) 100 years earlier Isaiah warned and was resisted, and now God is letting them know that the time of warning was over.

Wiersbe- " a **politician ask if it's popular**, a **diplomat asks if "it is safe"**, but a **true leader asks if "it is God's will" and "is it right"**."

D.) It is time for God's people to do God's will and what is right. (This is the leadership we need.)

Luke 18:8 (NET)

^{18:8} I tell you, he will give them justice speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

2.) When God calls we must step up to the challenge of God-
Jeremiah 5:21–23 (NET)

^{5:21} Tell them: 'Hear this,

you foolish people who have no understanding,
who have eyes but do not discern,
who have ears but do not perceive:

^{5:22} "You should fear me!" says the Lord.

"You should tremble in awe before me!

I made the sand to be a boundary for the sea,
a permanent barrier that it can never cross.

Its waves may roll, but they can never prevail.

They may roar, but they can never cross beyond that boundary."

^{5:23} But these people have stubborn and rebellious hearts.

They have turned aside and gone their own way.

G Campbell Morgan- *"for a people to boast in the glory of the past, and to deny the secret that made the past, is to perish."*

a.) the call of a prophet can be lonely. (Calling people back to truth)

B.) Most don't want to hear it, but if it is truth, it is essential.

Jeremiah 3:10 (NET)

^{3:10} In spite of all this, Israel's sister, unfaithful Judah, has not turned back to me with any sincerity; she has only pretended to do so," says the Lord.

Matthew 22:37 (NET)

^{22:37} Jesus said to him, ' "**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.**'

c.) He did not feel up to the task. (None of us are in our own power!)

Jeremiah 1:4–10 (NET)

Jeremiah's Call and Commission

^{1:4} The Lord said to me,

^{1:5} "Before I formed you in your mother's womb I chose you.

Before you were born I set you apart.

I appointed you to be a prophet to the nations."

^{1:6} I answered, “Oh, Lord God, I really do not know how to speak well enough for that, for I am too young.” ^{1:7} The Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ But go to whomever I send you and say whatever I tell you. ^{1:8} Do not be afraid of those to whom I send you, for I will be with you to protect you,” says the Lord. ^{1:9} Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I will most assuredly give you the words you are to speak for me. ^{1:10} Know for certain that I hereby give you the authority to announce to nations and kingdoms that they will be uprooted and torn down, destroyed and demolished, rebuilt and firmly planted.”

D.) Answering God’s call is a true denial of self.

Matthew 16:24–26 (NET)

^{16:24} Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wants to become my follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ^{16:25} For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ^{16:26} For what does it benefit a person if he gains the whole world but forfeits his life? Or what can a person give in exchange for his life?”

Jeremiah used illustrations to convey God’s message (chapter 2)

- Unfaithful wife- God’s people are to be faithful
- Cracked cisterns- not able to hold the water of truth or to a true God.
- Plundered slaves- by allowing worldliness to enslave them to destruction. (God tells a church that they have lost their first love in Rev. 2) (John 8 truth sets us free)
- Stubborn animal- refusing to obey God, living as base animals.
- Non productive- idols cannot produce good fruit!
- Defiled bodies- refusing the cleansing that God can do.
- Animals in a desert- desperate animals in a desert wasteland. (We need righteousness)

Jeremiah 17:7–10 (NET)

^{17:7} My blessing is on those people who trust in me,
who put their confidence in me.

^{17:8} They will be like a tree planted near a stream
whose roots spread out toward the water.
It has nothing to fear when the heat comes.
Its leaves are always green.
It has no need to be concerned in a year of drought.

It does not stop bearing fruit.

^{17:9} The human mind is more deceitful than anything else.

It is incurably bad. Who can understand it?

^{17:10} I, the Lord, probe into people's minds.

I examine people's hearts.

I deal with each person according to how he has behaved.

I give them what they deserve based on what they have done.

God called for repentance as he does for every person.

Jeremiah 5:1–3 (NET)

Judah is Justly Deserving of Coming Judgment

^{5:1} The Lord said,

“Go up and down through the streets of Jerusalem.

Look around and see for yourselves.

Search through its public squares.

See if any of you can find a single person
who deals honestly and tries to be truthful.

If you can, then I will not punish this city.

^{5:2} These people make promises in the name of the Lord.

But the fact is, what they swear to is really a lie.”

^{5:3} Lord, I know you look for faithfulness.

But even when you punish these people, they feel no remorse.

Even when you nearly destroy them, they refuse to be corrected.

They have become as hardheaded as a rock.

They refuse to change their ways.

In chapter 18 God says a nation can be saved with repentance. (Godly repentance)

Close

- God can heal in tough times. (Trusting God's Word and obeying His will)
- When we stand for God, we will be opposed. (Young Jeremiah for 40 years!)
- Love for country will not eliminate it's sin. (Sin kills)
- Only God can change a heart.

2 Corinthians 3:3 (NET)

^{3:3} revealing that you are a letter of Christ, delivered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not *on stone tablets* but on tablets of human hearts.

- Faithfulness does not always mean success- (read books about spiritual dreams, etc., but)

1 Corinthians 4:2 (NET)

4:2 Now what is sought in stewards is that one be found faithful.

- Ministry is becoming like Christ-

Philippians 3:10–11 (NET)

^{3:10} My aim is to know him, to experience the power of his resurrection, to share in his sufferings, and to be like him in his death, ^{3:11} and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

- God ultimately reigns- (religious don't reach God's heart, the righteous(made) reach His heart.

2 Chronicles 16:9 (ESV)

⁹ For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars."