



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sermon Series: Dark Prophet Part 6

Sermon Title: Anchor Your Life

Speaker/ Date: Armin Sommer/ March 3, 2019

Jeremiah 15:1–21

Our society is now being shaped by personal convenience, polls, and social media, not by revealed truth. The pressure to conform is immense and intimidating.

It's not all that different from the state of culture in Jeremiah's day. Jeremiah has been prophesying for 28 years. What held him fast in the swirling current of idolatry and moral collapse was his private time with God. It anchored him and held him fast, even as the currents of a devolving culture swirled around him.

Big Idea: You need an anchor to hold you fast in troubled times.

The 2 anchors are...

Anchor #1: God's Word

Jeremiah 1:9

The words God puts in Jeremiah's mouth are equivalent to "the belt of truth" we find in (**Ephesians 6:14**). It is the belt of truth (Bible) that supports the shield of faith and the sword of the spirit (the spoken words God gives us to utter and defeat the devil.

If we are unacquainted with God's Word we will be unable to resist the current of our culture. (**Jeremiah 15:16**).

I suggest 2 strategies for acquainting yourself with the Word.

1. **Read and Listen.** Either get a Bible and read a chapter a day. Download a Bible app that allows you to listen.
2. **Choose a Life Verse.** Memorize it, so that it's in your mouth. Have God's Word as your anchor, and it will hold you fast in the swirling currents of cultural decline.

The other anchor is prayer.

Anchor #2: Prayer

When we talk about developing a meaningful prayer life, we often picture it a drive-through at McDonalds. To say we have had a “meaningful” conversation with the person on the other side of the window would be a stretch. But for many of us, that’s what prayer is.

But a more satisfying kind of prayer is like when you arrange for dinner with a friend or loved one at a restaurant. More important than the food is the conversation and companionship with the person across the table. And when the meal is done, you leave with your companion. You’re still together, and glad that you met. That is what meaningful prayer looks like.

In Jeremiah 15, Jeremiah is desperately holding onto God as his anchor. And his prayer models for us the kind of **frankness** we need to practice. What does it look like?

1. Pray Your Fears

Express your fears to God. **Jeremiah 15:15**

2. Pray your Loneliness.

There will be times when, if you follow the Lord instead of the crowd, you’ll feel the way Jeremiah did- Utterly alone. **Jeremiah 15:17**

3. Pray your Pain

When we decide to speak for God, we can expect to be wounded by the very people we care about. **Jeremiah 15:18a**

4. Pray Your Frustration

Have you ever cried out to God, and then felt cheated when the answer doesn’t come? That was Jeremiah’s experience.

To argue with God indicates belief in God. Believers argue with God; skeptics argue about God. So take off the mask and pray all your true feelings before God. Transparency with God does not lead to alienation from God. **Jeremiah 15:18b**

5. LISTEN

God basically says, “Don’t let your fears, pain, frustration, or loneliness, cause you to let go of me. Just say what I tell you, and I will anchor you.” God will grip you to accomplish all that He has planned for you, no matter how dark the times. **Jeremiah 15:19, Jeremiah 15:20–21**

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **What would be the consequences of a Christian being immersed in the current of our modern culture?**
- **Are prayer and spending time in God's word a part of your daily life? How has making those a priority changed your life?**
- **When do you feel as if your prayer life is most like ordering fast food? When does it feel more like dining at a restaurant with a friend?**
- **What are some obstacles that you face when you are planning your quiet time with God?**
- **Do you have a single life verse memorized so you can use it when you need it?**
- **Do you have a method for reading the bible? Explain**
- **Have you ever cried out to God, and then felt cheated when the answer doesn't come? What are some reasons that God wouldn't directly answer all of our prayers?**