



# SUNDAY EVENING

## AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

**Title:** Faith in Mire

**Passage:** Jeremiah 38:1-13

**Speaker:** Pastor Dan Preston

**Introduction:** The story of Jeremiah in chapter 38 is a powerful testimony to the cost of speaking God's truth in a world that does not want to hear it. Rejected, persecuted, and nearly left to die in a muddy cistern, Jeremiah's experience mirrors the suffering of Christ and the trials of faithful believers in every age. Though his message was unpopular, it was true—and because it was true, it could not be silenced. This passage is not merely about a prophet in a pit; it's about the triumph of God's Word, the faithfulness of God's servants, and the deliverance God provides even in the darkest places.

### I. The Prophet Rejected (Verses 1-4)

*"The sword is without, and the pestilence and the famine within: he that is in the field shall die with the sword; and he that is in the city, famine and pestilence shall devour him." (Ezekiel 7:15)*

Jeremiah's message was "Surrender or die." He was preaching that message not because the Babylonians were invincible, but because God Himself was fighting on Babylon's side.

News of divine judgment is always bad news. It is unpleasant to hear that God punishes sin rather than overlooks it. But the only thing that really matters is whether or not the bad news of divine judgment is true.



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Rejection is never the end of the story for a man of God—but, often, it's just the beginning of deeper trials. When truth is unwelcome, the world will not rest until the voice that speaks it is silenced.

### **II. The Prophet Persecuted (Verses 5-6)**

There are three kinds of people—those who make things happen, those who let things happen, and those who say, "What happened?"

Man may dig pits, but God writes deliverance into the very depths of despair. As the cords lowered him down, another set of hands were already preparing to lift him up.

### **III. The Prophet Delivered (Verses 8-13)**

There in the cistern, Jeremiah reached rock-bottom in his ministry. When he answered God's call, he did not know at the time—he was agreeing to stand up to his thighs in a pile of mud in a hole in the ground, waiting to die.

*"I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings." (Psalm 40:1-2)*

Ebed-melech did count, because he counted to God. Remember that Jeremiah was called to be a prophet to the nations. Ebed-melech was the fruit of that international ministry.

Ebed-melech valued the life of God's prophet as much as he prized the truth of God's Word. Even when the whole world seemed to be arrayed against him, he had the courage to do what was right.

**Conclusion:** So what kind of person will you be? Will you be a Jeremiah—faithful, even when the consequences are hard? Will you be an Ebed-melech—bold enough to defend what's right, even if no one else does? Far too many people today would rather blend in with the crowd than stand out for what's right. We live in a culture where silence is safer than conviction, and going



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along is easier than speaking up. People fear the cost of standing for truth—being labeled, canceled, mocked, or rejected. But listen: truth has never been popular, and courage has never been comfortable. The question isn't whether the crowd will agree with you—the question is whether God will be pleased with you. And in a world drifting fast from righteousness, it's not enough to believe the truth—you have to stand for it.



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