



# SUNDAY EVENING

## AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

**Title:** “Seekest Thou Great Things? Seek Them Not”

**Passage:** Jeremiah 45:1-5

**Speaker:** Pastor Dan Preston

**Introduction:** Have you ever had one of those days when everything piles up at once—the bills are due, the car won’t start, someone at work is upset, and the phone won’t stop ringing? You think, *I can’t take one more thing*. That’s exactly where Baruch found himself. He groaned, “Woe is me now! for the LORD hath added grief to my sorrow.” He wasn’t suffering because he was doing wrong—he was weary because he was faithfully serving God, quietly recording Jeremiah’s prophecies, risking his life to put God’s Word on the scroll, and what did it get him? Sorrow, danger, weariness, unnoticed and unappreciated. Maybe you’ve been there too—wondering, *Is it worth it to keep serving when nobody seems to care?*

### I. The Weariness of God’s Servant (Verses 1-3)

Baruch’s Confession:

#### A. The Basic Meaning

He already carried the weight of discouragement, but God’s judgment on Judah, the rejection of Jeremiah’s message, and the danger he personally faced felt like more than he could handle.

Sorrow is the normal pain of living in a broken world; grief is an added heaviness that seems directly tied to the work we do for the Lord.



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**B. The Experience of Baruch**

*"Thou renewest thy witnesses against me, and increasest thine indignation upon me; changes and war are against me." (Job 10:17)*

Baruch is not backsliding; he's burned out. He's not rebellious; he's exhausted.

*"...we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead." (2 Corinthians 1:8–9)*

Weariness isn't sin, but weariness can invite sin—cynicism, self-pity, shortcuts.

When God's servants are weary, God's Word gives perspective.

**II. The Encouragement of God's Word (Verse 4)**

Sometimes God has to have a demo day before He has a dedication day.

We want immediate fruit; God often works with slow seasons. We want applause; God wants purity. We want revival; God sometimes sends removal—of idols, pride, and false security. The Word calls us to patience.

**III. The Warning Against Pride (Verse 5a)**

God doesn't mind making His servants great—He minds when His servants seek to be great.

*"He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30)*

*"If he gives me credit for being a plodder, he will describe me justly. Anything beyond this will be too much. I can plod. I can persevere to any definite pursuit." — William Carey*



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*"...Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might...But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me..." (Jeremiah 9:23–24)*

#### **IV. The Promise of God's Preservation (Verse 5b)**

Two sides of one decree:

1. Judgment is coming
2. But I will keep you

You won't get the greatness you wanted; you'll get the grace you need.

*"There is no pit so deep, that God's love is not deeper still." — Betsie ten Boom*

*"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee..." (Isaiah 43:2)*

*"...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Hebrews 13:5)*

*"The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe." (Proverbs 18:10)*

**Conclusion:** Our text reminds us that God's servants are not measured by applause, outcomes, or earthly recognition, but by the quiet strength of faithfulness. Baruch's name may have faded from men's records, but it was etched forever in God's Word—a reminder that no sacrifice, no prayer, no unnoticed act of obedience is ever forgotten by Him. When the weight of life feels heavy, when labor feels fruitless, when fear of tomorrow presses in, anchor your soul here: God sees, God speaks, God sustains. The story that matters most is not the one history books record, but the one Heaven is writing—and in that story, every weary servant who clings to Him will find that His presence and His promise are enough.



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