



SUNDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: No Neutral Ground

Passage: Jeremiah 39

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: For decades, Jeremiah had preached God's warning: *"Repent, turn from sin, or this city will fall!"* Yet the people refused to believe. King Zedekiah thought he could delay judgment, politicians thought they could negotiate peace, and the people assumed God would never allow Jerusalem to fall. But Jerusalem burned, because the people ignored God's Word. Yet in the midst of judgment, God preserved a remnant. Amid the sorrow, He planted seeds of hope. Jeremiah 39 reminds us that when God's Word comes to pass, it brings both sorrow for those who reject it and hope for those who believe it.

I. The Reality of God's Judgment (Verses 1–10)

When God speaks, His Word always comes to pass. Judgment may seem delayed, but it is never denied.

People laugh off hell. They scoff at eternity. They shrug off God's warnings. They sleep at His Word. But the day will come when the laughter stops.

II. The Reward of God's Servants (Verses 11–18)

A. Jeremiah's Preservation

Nebuchadnezzar ordered Jeremiah to be spared—why remains uncertain. He may have respected prophets or heard of



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Jeremiah's warnings from Jewish deserters. Whatever the reason, by God's providence, Jeremiah's life was preserved.

B. Ebed-melech's Reward

Because Ebed-melech was a humble servant who risked his life to save Jeremiah, God promised to deliver him when judgment fell.

*"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."
— Jim Elliot*

Never underestimate what simple obedience and trust in God can do. You may feel overlooked, but God sees every act of faith, every sacrifice, every risk taken for Him.

III. The Reliability of God's Word (Verses 1,15)

Every detail of Jeremiah's prophecy was fulfilled. Not one word failed.

You can build your life on God's Word. When He warns of sin's consequences, believe Him. When He promises strength in trials, trust Him. When He assures you of heaven through Christ, rest in Him. His Word has never failed, and it never will.

IV. The Response God Requires (Verse 18)

A. Zedekiah heard but rejected—and perished.

Zedekiah's downfall is directly tied to his rejection of God's Word through Jeremiah.

B. The people ignored—and were carried away.

Despite decades of prophetic warnings, the people ignored God's Word, resulting in the loss of their homes, freedom, and land.



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C. Jeremiah obeyed—and was preserved.

Jeremiah trusted and obeyed God's Word despite persecution, and God was faithful to preserve him.

D. Ebed-melech trusted—and was rewarded.

While kings and multitudes perished, one humble servant found favor with God simply by trusting Him.

For the believer, Jeremiah 39 is a warning: Don't grow weary. Don't compromise. Stay faithful even when the culture collapses around you. God will preserve His own.

The dangers of bitterness:

- Bitterness defiles others (Hebrews 12:15)
- Bitterness steals joy and peace (Job 21:25)
- Bitterness fuels sin (Ephesians 4:31)
- Bitterness blinds us spiritually (Acts 8:23)

Bitterness is one of the most dangerous heart sins because it spreads like a root, poisons relationships, destroys peace, and enslaves us to further sin.

The great dangers of pride:

- Pride deceives the heart (Obadiah 1:3)
- Pride separates us from God's grace (James 4:6)
- Pride precedes destruction (Proverbs 16:18)
- Pride fuels other sins (Mark 7:22)



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- Pride robs God of glory (Isaiah 42:8)

Conclusion: Remember this: The fire may fall, the storm may rage, but God still saves. The walls may crumble, the mighty may fall, but His Word stands firm. You can hold tight to what cannot save, or you can let go and trust the One who can. You can stay in the shadows of sorrow, or step into the light of His hope. But the choice is yours—and the time is now. Don't wait until the city burns. Don't wait until your strength is gone. Come to the altar. Bring your sorrow, your sin, your fear—and trade them for mercy, forgiveness, and life. Step out of sorrow—and into hope.



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