



SUNDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: Patriot or Traitor?

Passage: Jeremiah 37:1-21

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: Jeremiah, too, was accused of being a traitor—not to a country, but to his own people. Yet in reality, he was the most faithful man in the city. Far from being a Benedict Arnold, Jeremiah was a true patriot—not for a flag or a king, but for God and His people.

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.” (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

A traitor is someone who is part of a group—but whose loyalty and affection lie elsewhere. According to scripture, this kind of disloyalty will be rampant in the last days. Yet it’s not just a future danger—it was present in biblical times too. As we approach a world increasingly hostile to truth, we must ask: Will we be found faithful? Or will we be seen as traitors to our Lord?

I. Jeremiah: The Faithful Patriot

- A. Misunderstood Loyalty: Jeremiah’s harsh messages were seen as defeatist—or even traitorous—especially in wartime.



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It seemed like years since Jeremiah had spoken a good word about the future of Jerusalem.

- B. Wrongly Accused: His attempt to leave Jerusalem was misinterpreted, leading to his arrest and abuse.

To charge such a true patriot with treason is an injustice; to subject him to police brutality is just wrong.

Jeremiah's prophecies were considered a security risk.

- C. True Devotion: For 40 years, he wept, pleaded, and stood firm. His loyalty was not to a flag, but to a holy God.

Don't be surprised if obedience to God is labeled rebellion by a culture already in rebellion against God.

II. Zedekiah: The Compromised Traitor

- A. Refused to listen to God's Word: Zedekiah ignored decades of clear warnings from Jeremiah.

The kingdom of Zedekiah reflected the spiritual apathy of their king. If he wasn't going to listen to God's Word, no one else would either.

This famine of the hearing of God's Word extends even to the church, where Bible reading and biblical exposition are often the first things to go in the quest for contemporary worship.

- B. Dabbled in religion: Zedekiah asked, "Is there any word from the Lord?"-but he never acted upon it.

Zedekiah may have flirted with the Word of God, but he never obeyed it.

People who take only a passing interest in the Bible cannot be patriots in the Lord's army, because they have divided loyalties.



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"And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." (Acts 24:24-25)

If you claim to be a Christian, then failure to study and obey the Bible is an act of high treason.

- C. Neglected prayer: He wanted Jeremiah to pray, but wouldn't pray himself.

Access to the King of kings through prayer is the unique privilege of the patriot, not the traitor.

Inability to pray for one's self is a sign of desperate spiritual weakness.

Even most unbelievers find comfort in prayer. And because prayer is a spiritual activity, it opens a door for the Holy Spirit to work in a person's life.

Zedekiah shows us what spiritual betrayal looks like—not in open rebellion, but in soft, passive refusal to submit to God.

Conclusion: So, which will it be? Faithful or false? A patriot of heaven or a traitor to truth? In the end, the world's opinion won't matter—only God's will. Let's be the ones who stand firm, speak truth, and stay loyal to our King, even when the cost is high. Because in heaven's eyes, faithfulness is never treason.



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