

Jeremiah 1:1-3:5 – 2 May 2024

“The Call & The Fall”

Introduction

Read Vs 1

1. 60 years after Isaiah dies, here come Jeremiah
2. As a priest, he would be interesting in teaching

Read Vs 2-3

1. Book ends w/ captivity of the Jews by Babylon
2. Jeremiah prophesy for 20 years before Conquest in 605 BC & 20 years during Babylon’s dominance

*Jeremiah consistently warned Judah to submit to Babylon for judgment, therefore he was treated as a traitor

*He wouldn’t have comfortable life of ignoring sin

*Jeremiah is called to preach salvation and the ministry of salvation comes in a two-fold manner

Today we’ll see the 2-fold Call & the 2-fold Fall

1st let’s see Jeremiah’s 2-fold call into the ministry

#1 – There must be destruction THEN construction (Chap 1:4-10)

Read Chap 1:4-5

1. Jeremiah was appointed to bring the word of God, not the word of Jeremiah, “to the nations”
 - a. Most prophets were focused on bringing Jesus to Israel, like Eze 2:5, Jeremiah was given the Word for all people to benefit from
 - b. He would gain little to no converts
2. Notice God’s intimate knowledge of mankind
 - a. In God’s sovereign knowledge, He knew Jeremiah would willingly choose to serve God
3. God is source of the miracle of life; therefore, He is the only One that can tell us when it begins
 - a. There is an eternal spirit created from nothing at the moment of conception
 - b. Made in God’s image—that’s what we protect

Read Vs 6-8

1. Jeremiah doesn’t believe he’s mature enough
 - a. Jeremiah was a young man, but that’s no disqualifier [Just as Tim was told (I Tim 4:12)]

- b. Jeremiah's effectiveness will be based on God's power not Jeremiah's – same with us
 - c. That God knows all about us and STILL wants to use us, should humble us
2. Great example of 'humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up'
 - a. God will use the humble for great things
 3. Destroying self-confidence will allow God to construct great things thru our lives
 - a. Why should we not fear – b/c God's with us

Read Vs 9-10

1. Jeremiah's mission is 4 verbs of destruction, THEN 2 verbs of building
2. Self needs eradicated before God can build
3. Jeremiah's ministry was that of calling Israel to renewal thru tearing away sin & embracing good
4. Many were called to a 2-fold ministry
 - a. Moses was called to deliver Israel out of Egypt but also into Promised Land (Exo 3:8)
 - b. Paul was called to preach to Jews, but also to Gentiles (Act 23:11, 26:17)

#2 – The Word must impact you THEN it can impact others (Chap 1:11-12)

Read Chap 1:11-12

1. There's a play on words here b/c almond & hasten mean the same thing – 'in a state of ready'
2. Almond tree was the first tree to bloom
3. God's word is ready to come forth
 - a. God's not asleep or unaware of what to do
 - b. This book has a high emphasis on God's Word being exalted and not the opinion of man
 - c. Before God's Word can impact others, it must first impact you
 - i. Col 2:7 tells us to be 'rooted & built up'

#3 – We must understand sinfulness THEN we can understand grace (Chap 1:13-19)

Read Chap 1:13-16

1. “Out of the north” was clearly understood to mean Babylon – anyone attacking from N or E would come from the north
2. A clear indication that Jeremiah’s message will begin with “judgement is coming”
 - a. All evangelistic outreach begins w/ this
 - b. Can’t understand grace until 1st accepting sinfulness
3. We’re introduced to the reason of Judah’s judgement – b/c of idolatry and serving false gods

Read Vs 17-19

1. The only thing Jeremiah is responsible for is to not fear moving into God’s plan – that’s faith
2. Some of us need to continually quote in our heads vss 18-19 and **MOVE FORWARD**
 - a. God is with you – “Faithful is He that called you, Who will also do it”

Lastly let's see the 2-fold fall into destruction

#1 – Believing others can love you NOT God (Chap 2:1-12)

Read Chap 2:1-3

1. When Israel 1st came out of Egypt, they were still infatuated and in love with God as a new bride
2. What did it take? Simply a heart to pursue God
 - a. Pursuing God made them holy and fruitful
3. Holiness or sanctification imply there are 2 or more groups of people
 - a. This naturally means – some will love you & some will hate you
4. SOLUTION: Remember thy 1st love (Rev 2:4)

Read Vs 4-8

1. Israel began pursuing the vain goals of this life
2. Devoted their time/money to the unprofitable
3. SOLUTION: Remember that God is perfect (vs 5) and He's always able to provide (vs 6-7)

Read Vs 9-12

1. Amazing - Israel has done what no other nation from east (Kedar) to west (Chittim) has done
 - a. They've abandoned their historic beliefs
 - b. This idolatry was spiritual adultery

#2 – Believing others can satisfy you NOT God (Chap 2:13-25)

Read Chap 2:13

1. There are two distinct problems
 - a. Israel believed something else could satisfy greater than Yahweh could
 - b. Israel didn't believe Yahweh was satisfying
2. Jesus told the women at the well in John 4 that if she knew who He was, she would have asked Him for living water and He would have given it
3. God told Isaiah (55:1) that anyone that thirsts can get this water from Him for free
4. This speaks of the power of the Holy Spirit
 - a. John 7 - living water will flow out of you

5. Would we forsake God for a broken well that can never provide what we're looking for?

Read Vs 14-19

1. He's calling them to see their lack of provision is directly b/c they turned away from the Lord
2. So often all God has to do to punish up is to allow us to go our own way – to the place of pain
3. What's last thing goes thru mouse's mind b4 entering mouse trap? 'Feels so right, can't be wrong'

Read Vs 20-25

1. What Israel is seeking after will go unfulfilled
 - a. Pursuit of strangers has no hope of fulfillment
2. Being a harlot (vs 20) – unfulfilling b/c you have sex but no relationship of love
3. A strange vine (vs 21) – unfulfilling b/c in looks good but taste horrible
4. Washing after being in the valley (vs 22-23) – unfulfilling b/c although you can't see the dirt, you can still feel the dirt

#3 – Believing others can help you NOT God alone (Chap 2:26-3:5)

Read Chap 2:26-28

1. They believe God can save, they accept God's love & power, but they have no control of will b/c they don't fear/reverence God
2. The thief is sorry he got caught but not sorry that he stole – this is shame not repentance
3. How do we get back of fear of God?
 - a. Hard circumstances can do it (vs 30)
 - b. See God's greatness & omnipresence (Eze 8:12)
 - c. Consider deeply your own mortality (Acts 5:11)
 - d. Staying tight w/ church disciplines (Act 2:42-43)
 - e. Psm 103:17 – Fear God - Have mercy

Read Vs 29-32

1. So God is trying to correct Israel and even that isn't getting their attention
2. As a bride that forgets her wedding ring, it's unnatural for Israel to forget her God

Read Vs 33-37

1. To be loved...the very thing they've been seeking after and not finding
2. They think they're innocent b/c "they're just seeking love"
 - a. It's offensive to put our love & trust, that should be in the Lord, into another (ie Egypt)
 - b. It's offensive to put love & trust in an inappropriate place instead of where deserved
 - i. Gay movement would say, "We can love anyone" – but that's misplacing love

Read Vs 1

1. Justice according to the Mosaic Law is that an unfaithful wife can never go back to 1st husband
 - a. But God's wanting to show mercy

Read Vs 2

1. Many of them probably thought, "I'm not forsaking God, I'm just adding so more fun"

- a. Married lady can't say, "I'm not forsaking my husband, I'm just sleeping w/ more men"
- b. Married isn't just committing to one, but also forsaking all others

Read Vs 3-5

1. They're experiencing very real consequences for their poor lifestyle yet they express no remorse
2. They still act prideful and unashamed
3. God's hinting that He wants to be merciful
 - a. But they're too stubborn to see it

Conclusion

So the Call & the Fall often comes in two halves

Which one will you experience?

1. Two-Fold Call into the ministry

- a. Destroy THEN Build
- b. God's Word must impact you THEN it can impact others
- c. Understand sinfulness THEN you can understand grace

2. Two-fold Fall into destruction

- a. Believing others can love you NOT God
- b. Believing others could satisfy NOT God
- c. Believing others can help NOT God alone