



The Sent Ones PT. II | Jeremiah

Mark Allen | 09.13.26

Overview

This week's sermon explored the life and ministry of Jeremiah, known as the weeping prophet. Though called by God before birth and given a powerful message, Jeremiah never saw the earthly fruit he might have hoped for. His story challenges us to trust God's plans even when circumstances are painful, confusing, or seemingly without reward. The central theme woven throughout the book of Jeremiah is captured in his very name: Yahweh will exalt.

Key Takeaways

- God knows us and has plans for us before we are even formed in the womb (Jeremiah 1:5).
- Being called by God does not mean being shielded from hardship -- it means God is present with us through hardship.
- False security is a real danger, both for ancient Israel and for modern believers. Claiming the name of Christ is not a license to live however we choose.
- God is the potter and we are the clay. He has the authority and the mercy to reshape us when we are spoiled.
- It is honest and acceptable to bring our frustrations and confusion to God, as Jeremiah did in chapter 20.
- Even in seasons of exile or captivity, God calls us to keep growing, keep praying, and seek the welfare of the communities around us.
- The new covenant, prophesied in Jeremiah 31, is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. God writes his law on our hearts, forgives our sin, and remembers it no more.

Discussion Questions

Opening Question

- When you think of someone who was faithful to God but never saw the results they hoped for during their lifetime, who comes to mind? What do you admire about that person?

Jeremiah's Call and Commission (Jeremiah 1)

1. God told Jeremiah he knew him before he was formed in the womb and had already consecrated him. How does it change the way you think about your own life to consider that God knew you and had purposes for you before you were born?
2. Jeremiah's immediate response to God's call was to point out his inadequacy -- he was young and did not know how to speak. Have you ever responded to a sense of calling or responsibility by focusing on your limitations? What happened?
3. God promised Jeremiah, "I am with you to deliver you." Yet Jeremiah still faced beatings, imprisonment, and abandonment. How do you reconcile God's promise of deliverance with the reality of suffering? What does deliverance actually mean to you?

The Temple Sermon and False Security (Jeremiah 7)

4. The Israelites were repeating "This is the temple of the Lord" as if their religious identity alone protected them from consequences. In what ways might Christians today fall into a similar pattern of false security?
5. Pastor Mark drew a distinction between the fact that works cannot save us and the idea that being saved is a free pass to sin. How do you hold those two truths together in your daily life?
6. Josiah's workers found the Book of the Law buried under years of neglect and refuse. Is there anything in your own walk with God that has been buried or neglected over time? What would it look like to uncover it?

The Potter and the Clay (Jeremiah 18)

7. The potter did not discard the spoiled clay -- he reshaped it into something new. Has there been a time in your life when God reshaped something that felt ruined? What did that process look like?
8. Pastor Mark pointed out that both noble pots and common pots are useful in the potter's hands. Do you tend to think of yourself as a noble pot or a common pot? How does it change your perspective to know that God sees both as useful?

Jeremiah's Lament (Jeremiah 20)

9. Jeremiah told God, "You have deceived me." He was honest about his pain, confusion, and exhaustion. How comfortable are you with bringing that level of raw honesty to God in prayer? What holds you back, if anything?
10. Even in his lament, Jeremiah said the word of God was like a burning fire in his bones that he could not hold in. Have you ever experienced a sense of calling or conviction that would not leave you alone no matter how much you tried to set it aside? What did you do with it?

The Letter to the Exiles (Jeremiah 29)

11. God told the exiles to build houses, plant gardens, and seek the welfare of Babylon -- the very city that had taken them captive. What does it look like practically for Christians to seek the welfare of a culture that may feel hostile or foreign to their values?
12. God's promise in Jeremiah 29:11 -- that he knows the plans he has for his people, plans for welfare and not for calamity -- was given to people who were facing 70 years of exile. How does that context change the way you read or apply that verse?
13. Pastor Mark challenged believers to pray for their leaders and to vote. How does seeking the welfare of your community connect to your faith in a practical, everyday sense?

The New Covenant (Jeremiah 31)

14. The old covenant was written on stone tablets. The new covenant, fulfilled in Jesus, is written on the heart. What is the difference between following rules that are external to you and living from a law that has been written within you? Which one better describes your experience of faith right now?
15. God promised in the new covenant that he would forgive iniquity and remember sin no more. How fully do you believe that promise applies to you personally? Is there anything you are still carrying that God says he has already forgotten?

Practical Applications

Choose one or more of the following to put into practice before your group meets again:

1. **Reflect on your calling.** Set aside 15 to 20 minutes this week to write down what you believe God has called or gifted you to do. Ask yourself honestly whether you are walking in that calling or avoiding it out of fear or a sense of inadequacy.
 2. **Examine your security.** Ask yourself whether your faith is producing genuine transformation or whether you have been relying on religious identity without real surrender. Confess honestly to God and, if appropriate, to a trusted person in your group.
 3. **Pray an honest prayer.** If you have been holding back frustration, confusion, or grief from God, write him a letter this week. Be completely honest. Then sit quietly and listen for his response.
 4. **Seek the welfare of your community.** Identify one specific way this week to pray for or serve someone outside your immediate circle -- a neighbor, a coworker, a local leader, or a community in need.
 5. **Pray for your leaders.** Commit to praying by name this week for at least one local, state, or national leader -- regardless of whether you agree with them politically.
 6. **Surrender to the potter.** Spend time in prayer asking God to reshape any area of your life that feels spoiled or broken. Tell him specifically that you are willing to be clay in his hands, even if the reshaping is uncomfortable.
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Closing Reflection

Jeremiah never saw the full fruit of his ministry on this earth. He was beaten, imprisoned, thrown into a pit, and dragged into exile. And yet his name -- Yahweh will exalt -- proved true. The new covenant he prophesied changed the entire world. His faithfulness mattered, even when he could not see it.

Whatever you are walking through right now, God has not forgotten you. His plans for you are not plans for calamity. He is the potter, and you are still in his hands. Keep trusting. Keep growing. Yahweh will exalt.

Closing Prayer

Close your group time by praying together. Invite anyone who would like to share a specific need or area of surrender to do so, and pray over those things as a group. If anyone in the group has never personally trusted Jesus as Lord, create space for that conversation and for prayer.