



House of New Beginnings

ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

"Voices in the Pit: Learning to Listen to the Lord (Jer. 38)"

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: Jeremiah 38

1. The Voice of Fear: When the World Drowns Out God's Word (Jer. 38:1-4)

In Jeremiah's time, the city of Jerusalem was surrounded by chaos. The Babylonians were advancing, the people were terrified, and everyone was looking for a solution. Jeremiah's message from the Lord was clear: *"Anyone who goes out to the Chaldeans will live"* (Jeremiah 38:2, TLV). But the officials saw this as treason and threw him into a pit to silence him.

Fear often drowns out God's voice. The officials feared losing their power and control, and their fear blinded them to the truth. What about us? Are we letting the world's noise and fear keep us from hearing God? When fear speaks louder than faith, we make choices that lead to destruction instead of life.

2. The Voice of Compromise: When We Listen to People instead of God (Jer. 38:14-19)

King Zedekiah secretly called for Jeremiah, seeking a word from the Lord. But when Jeremiah told him to surrender, Zedekiah hesitated, saying, *"I am afraid of the Judeans who have deserted...lest they hand me over to them and abuse me"* (Jeremiah 38:19, TLV).

Zedekiah cared more about the opinions of others than God's command. He compromised, trying to please everyone, but in the end, it cost him everything. How often do we fall into this same trap? We know what God wants us to do, but the pressure of people's expectations keeps us from obeying. Compromise may feel safe in the moment, but it leads to regret. Listening to God requires courage to stand firm, even when it's uncomfortable or unpopular.

3. The Voice of Deliverance: God's Word Will Always Prevail. (Jer. 38:20-23)

Jeremiah pleaded with Zedekiah, saying, *"Obey the voice of Adonai...it will go well for you, and your soul will live"* (Jeremiah 38:20, TLV). But Zedekiah refused, and the destruction Jeremiah warned about came to pass. Yet even in the pit, God

provided a way of deliverance. An outsider, Ebed-Melech, stepped forward to rescue Jeremiah, showing that God's voice cannot be silenced.

No matter how deep the pit we find ourselves in, God's voice is still calling us. His word is faithful, and His deliverance is sure. The question is, will we listen? Will we surrender to Him and trust His way? When we follow His voice, He leads us to life, even in the darkest moments.

Conclusion:

Are you in a pit today, surrounded by voices of fear, compromise, and doubt? God is calling you to listen to His voice above all others. Maybe you've been holding onto pride, fear, or the need to please others. Today is the day to surrender. Just as Jeremiah called Zedekiah to obey the voice of the Lord, He's calling you to step out in faith and trust Him. Don't wait until it's too late. The Lord's voice is calling—will you listen?

Discussion Questions:

1. What voices in your life compete with God's word?
2. How does fear influence your decisions, and how can you overcome it with faith?
3. Why do you think compromise is so tempting, even when we know God's will?
4. How has God delivered you from a "pit" in the past, and what did you learn from it?
5. What steps can you take to focus on hearing and obeying God's voice daily?

Closing Prayer:

Abba Father, we come before You today, recognizing the many voices that try to distract us from Your truth. Forgive us for the times we've listened to fear or compromised instead of obeying Your word. Lord, help us to quiet the noise and hear Your voice clearly. Give us the courage to trust You, even when it's hard. Thank You for being faithful, even when we falter. Lead us out of our pits and into Your purpose for our lives.

B'Shem Yeshua, In the mighty name of Yeshua, our Messiah, we pray. Amen.