

Jeremiah 20

2-5-98

1. Intro:

- 1.1. Remember **last week** we left Jeremiah down at the Potsherd Gate(Dung gate) smashing pottery(19:10).
- 1.2. **Q:** Do you ever have *mood swings*?
 - 1.2.1. **Moods** = frame of mind, disposition.
- 1.3. We'll see God's servants are human & have changes in their feelings.
 - 1.3.1. Yet, Jeremiah still is **bold** before men, & **broken** before God!
- 1.4. We'll watch Jeremiah's moods hit the top of both sides of the pendulum.
- 1.5. **Outline:** Proclamation & Prayer, Delight & Despair!
- 1.6. **Read** – starting from 19:14 to 20:6.

2. PROCLAMATION (1-6)

- 2.1. Threats become reality to Jeremiah!
- 2.2. **Vs.1** – **Pashhur** – We have 3 Pashhur's in Jeremiah.
 - 2.2.1. Son of Immer(20:1); Melchiah(21:1); Gedaliah(38:1)...all 3 enemies of Jer. & wanted to silence him.
 - 2.2.2. Pashhur was an [1] assistant to the high priest [2] & the chief security officer for the Temple.
 - 2.2.2.1. One of Pashhur's job's was to **punish** people who committed offenses against the temple.
- 2.3. **Vs.2** – **Stocks**(mahpeket) – Heb word from the verb “to twist”.
 - 2.3.1. Implying that the twist frame clamped the victim in a position that would become increasingly distressing.¹

- 2.4. **Vs.2b** – Adding shame to pain – was the **location** of the stocks.
- 2.4.1. Everyone could see them; he spent all night bent & twisted; this was right after a beating; & this was only the 1st of several acts of persecution against Jeremiah.
- 2.4.1.1. They'll threaten to kill him(26); accuse him falsely, then imprison him(37); put him into a pit(38) where he remains an official prisoner till Neb. sets him free(39).
- 2.5. **Vs.3,4** – **Magor Missabib** {⤴⤵◻⤴⤵⤴⤵⤴⤵} – “Terror on every side, or terror from all around.”
- 2.5.1. Jeremiah has already used this phrase in 6:25.
- 2.5.2. And he will use it again in 46:5, 49:5, 29. {These describe what would happen to Jeremiah when the Babylonian army finally moved in.}
- 2.6. **Vs.4** – Here he goes again!(preachen machine!)
- 2.6.1. Here is the 1st time Jeremiah names Babylon as the invader.
- 2.6.1.1. If they knew their scriptures though **Isaiah** Already predicted the captivity & Babylon as the aggressor. (Is.6:11-13; 11:11,12; 39:6)
- 2.6.1.2. Jeremiah will give the **length** of their captivity(70 years) in ch.25.
- 2.6.1.3. Now the name “**Babylon**(The tool of God’s discipline)” will be used 161 times throughout the book.
- 2.7. **Vs.6** – “& be buried there” – Ouch! For a Jew to be buried outside his own land was considered a judgment. {Gentile land was unclean}
- 2.7.1. I guess God figured Pashhur & friends were “**preaching lies**” & “**encouraging idol worship**” so they’d be right at home in Babylon anyway.

3. **PRAYER (7-12)**

- 3.1. **Vs.7** - Complaining to God; Hitting rock bottom; Depression!
- 3.1.1. **Quote** Spurgeon (pg.55 #318)

- 3.1.2. “Emotional stability is an attitude. It is refusing to yield to depression and fear, even when black clouds float overhead.”²
- 3.2. This is the last of Jeremiah’s recorded laments.
- 3.2.1. Here is grief & joy; prayer & despair; praise & perplexity all thrown into the same blender.
- 3.2.2. Jer. runs from mnt. top to valley, mnt. top to valley.
- 3.3. “**Induced**” – deceived, persuaded, enticed , seduced.
- 3.3.1. Lord, you’ve taken advantage of me & lured me into ministry, you’ve overpowered me & prevailed(7).
- 3.3.1.1. **Side note:** We read of no record of this in ch.1!
- 3.3.1.2. **On the other hand** Jeremiah was told up front this would be difficult. He was just told he would have to grow to keep going forward(12:5).
- 3.3.2. “Oh no, I’m being placed into the grouping of the ‘false prophets!’ I’ve been made a decoy to lure myself & others to ruin.”
- 3.4. “**everyone mocks me**” – Jeremiah is suffering from C.L.S. That’s “Chicken Little Syndrom”(sky is falling); & W.W.W. That’s **Wolf, Wolf Wolf!** (The boy who cried Wolf!)
- 3.5. **vs.9b** – Jer. suffers from “Acute Prophetitis!” Jeremiah lived above his moods & did God’s will regardless of how he felt!
- 3.5.1. He dealt w/**3 imp. issues** [1] God’s will(7-9) [2] His daily danger(10-13) [3] His Despair(14-18).
- 3.5.2. Often when a servant of god finds themselves in trouble, they’re tempted to question their **call!** (like Jer.’s doing)
- 3.5.2.1. What should they do about it? {Talk to God about it!}
- 3.5.3. Jeremiah realizes the fiery message he cannot contain is the word from God!!!
- 3.6. **Vs.10** – It seems like they take the name Jer. gave to Pashhur & give it to Jer.

3.7. **Vs.11,12** – He emerges from his doubt’s. Yet, like Tarzan swinging from tree to tree, Jeremiah goes from courage to seeking revenge, to worship.

3.7.1. This was a prayer he prayed back in 11:20. (did he pray this often?)

3.7.2. Listen to Jeremiah’s cure for his depression in 11a. “**The Lord is w/me!**”

3.7.2.1. **Abide** with me-fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens: Lord, with me **abide**;
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, **O abide with me.** [Henry Francis Lyte]

4. **DELIGHT (13)**

4.1. **Joy!** – By committing his cause to the Lord he had every right to sing.

4.1.1. Ps.62:8 “Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.”

4.1.2. Earl Riney said, “The stars are constantly shining, but often we do not see them until the dark hours.” {Jer. just saw the stars!}

4.1.3. **Billy Sunday**, “If there is no Joy in your religion, there’s a leak in your Christianity somewhere.”

4.1.3.1. But this didn’t last long...Jeremiah just sprung a leak (14-18)!

5. **DESPAIR (14-18)**

5.1. When we speak this way, we seem to forget all the wonderful blessings we have enjoyed throughout life.

5.1.1. Johnson Oatman’s Hymn “When upon life’s billows”. {He wrote over 5000 hymns(1856-1922), ran a busy Mercantile Business, & was an administrator of a large Insurance Company in New Jersey. – This hymn was sung each night of the Welsh Revivals} **Read**

5.1.2. **Suffering** has a way of erasing the **happy** memories & putting **sad** memories in their place.

5.1.3. Remember His mercies help encourage us in times of troubles.

5.1.3.1. I give people Ps.77(emphasis on vs.10)

5.1.3.2. Now I have this one in vs.11.

5.1.4. “It takes both the rain and the sunshine to make a rainbow.”

5.2. **Vs.18** – “Why did I come forth from...” – Because God had a special plan for his life, & God doesn’t make mistakes! (same with you!)

6. End:

6.1. **Q:** Have you felt like giving up lately? Press on! “It’s always too soon to quit.”

6.2. **Q:** How do you battle depression? - Take a dose of vs.11

¹ Derek Kidner

² Dr. Dobsen